



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

James Lick School Celebrates 75th With Santana

Music Star Helps Dedicate New Peace Garden

By Kate Volkman

Were you a Skipper, Pirate, or Bulldog? Your alma mater, James Lick Middle School, turns 75 this year. And you're invited back for a multi-event celebration, also open to the general public, which will take place Saturday, May 12, on the school grounds at 1220 Noe Street.

You'll be joined by one of the school's claims to fame, alumnus and legendary musician Carlos Santana, who will lend his name to a peace garden that will be dedicated that afternoon. Plus, you've got a good chance of running into fellow alumni Noe Valley butchers Isaac and Josh Epple, of the Drewes Brothers shop on Church Street. There have been no reports that alumnus (and TV star) Benjamin Bratt will be present, however.

"We could have chosen to do something small," says 75th anniversary committee parent Chris Loughran, "but we chose to do something grand."

Something grand is a daylong party, starting at 11 a.m. with a carnival in the lower yard. (Parking will be available in the upper yard.) The opening ceremony for the Santana Peace Garden will kick off at 1 p.m., and will be followed by student performances at 2:00 and an alumni slide show and presentation at 2:45.

The carnival will consist of game booths and a bouncy house, sponsored by Beyond the Bell, James Lick's after-school program. It will raise funds for an

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Back in 1932, when this photo was taken, students and staff at James Lick School were marveling at their stately new campus on Noe Street. Seventy-five years later, the school is celebrating the building's past, and its future, with an all-day party May 12, featuring student performances and the opening of the Santana Peace Garden. Photo courtesy Noe Valley Archives

Local Man Killed In Crash Following Burglary

By Liz Highleyman

A Noe Valley man was killed early Monday morning April 16, when a thief fleeing a burglary crashed into his pickup truck at the corner of Jersey and Church streets.

John Avery, 57, a longtime resident of 20th Street, died from severe injuries suffered in the collision.

Glen Stroud, the manager of Ritz Camera in the 3900 block of 24th Street, later confirmed that a burglar broke through the store's glass door and stole between \$5,000 and \$10,000 worth of photography equipment.

"We've been robbed about once every year, but this is the first time there was a witness," Stroud said.

The witness, who asked that his name not be used because he was scheduled to testify in the case, said he called police after he saw the alleged thief, who police identified as Luis Lara Cortez, 19, break the store's door with a rock at about 12:30 a.m.

After robbing the store, Cortez sped westward on 24th Street, passing a police cruiser responding to the call. With the officer following—but not in hot pursuit—Cortez's gold Oldsmobile then turned south on Castro Street and headed east on Jersey.

"He blew through every stop sign," said the witness. "He must have been going at least 100 miles per hour."

At the intersection of Jersey and Church, Cortez smashed into Avery's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

A Ray of Light at The End of Real Food Tunnel

Nutraceutical Says It Plans to Rebuild Grocery Store

By Liz Highleyman

Three and a half years after the 24th Street Real Food Company grocery store closed for renovations, Noe Valley residents may finally see some progress in the coming months.

As *Voice* readers will recall, Real Food's Utah-based parent company, Nutraceutical Corporation, shuttered the store and terminated 30 workers over Labor Day weekend in 2003, saying it intended to do a badly needed remodeling. Some ex-employees countered that they were fired for attempting to organize a union.

Work on the building started and stopped several times as Nutraceutical and the former property owners, Jane and Kimball Allen, argued over the cost of repairs. In November 2005, Nutraceutical purchased the building as part of a legal settlement with the Allens. That same month, the National Labor Relations Board ruled in favor of the former employees in an unfair labor practices lawsuit; Nutraceutical filed an appeal that is still pending.

During the closure, local merchants and shoppers expressed growing frustration over the empty space at the center of the 24th Street commercial strip, while District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty and neighborhood activists repeatedly attempted to engage the company in negotiations to ensure a just settlement for the

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Drawing with the Stars: Illustrator LeUyen Pham

By Olivia Boler

LeUyen Pham is the first to admit she is a lucky lady. From very early in life, the illustrator of such bestselling children's books as *Can You Do This, Old Badger?* and *Big Sister, Little Sister* has been touched by some sort of serendipity.

When she wasn't quite 2 years old, Pham and her family escaped on the second-to-last transport out of Saigon in the waning days of the Vietnam War. It was 1975.

"My father was a translator for the CIA," Pham says. "After the Americans left, if we had stayed, he probably would have been jailed immediately when Saigon fell."

His special clearance with the U.S. government got the entire family out, including Pham, her mother, two older brothers, and older sister. The family landed in the Philippines and moved from one U.S. Army base to another, finally settling in Temple City, Calif., near



LeUyen Pham's artistic career has taken her from working on animation at DreamWorks to illustrating her own children's books to collaborating on projects with Desmond Tutu and Julianne Moore.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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Noe Valley Mom Helen Moore takes a break in front of Haystack Pizza on 24th Street with sons Calum (with monkey), 3, and Ethan Peachey, 5. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*

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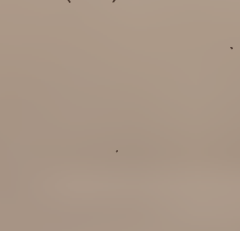
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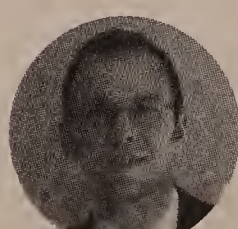
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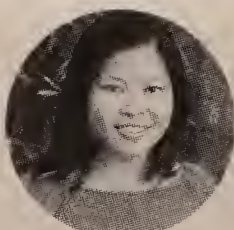
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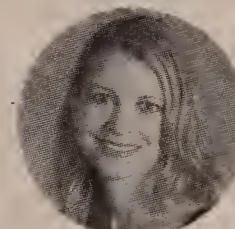
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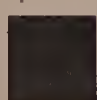
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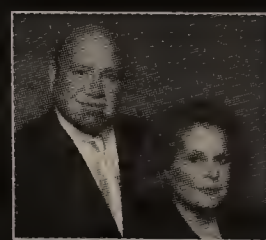
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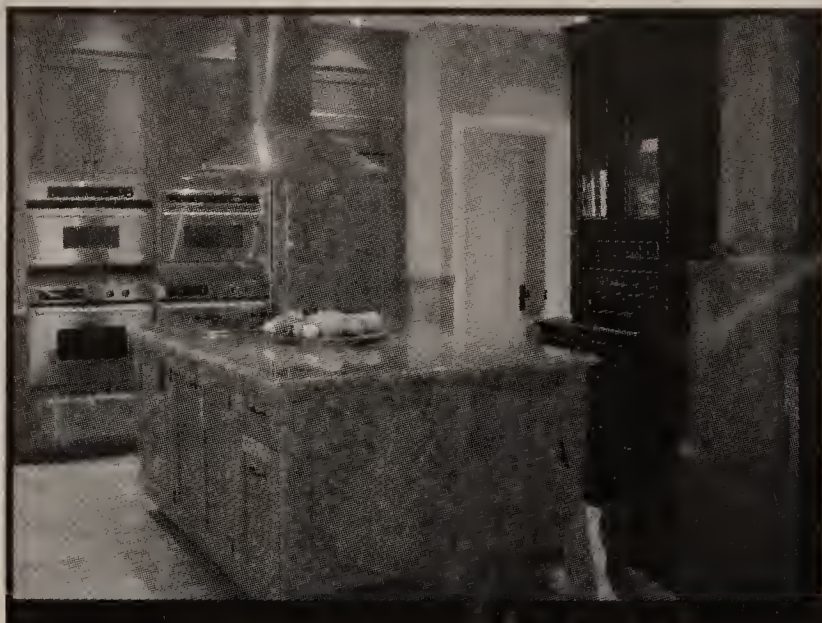
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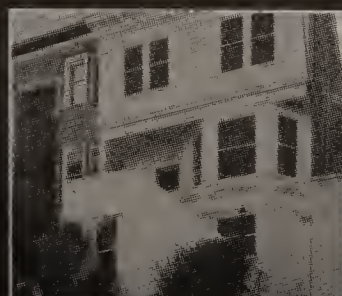
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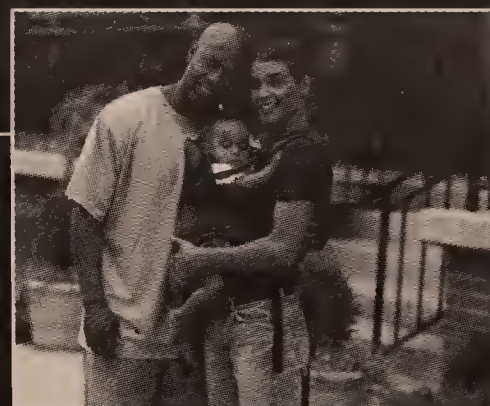
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LETTERS 39¢

Preserve Old Trees Too

Editor:

I recently read a posting about a tree removal for a disability access at Alvarado School at 625 Douglass Street. The notice was on a phone poll. I could not see a tree with the tag. But the tree on Douglass next to the new blue zone for the disability ramp is the largest tree in front of the school and the largest tree within two blocks. If this is the tree, I'm not sure why it needs to go, as there appears to be plenty of open access to the disability ramp. If more room is required, certainly some accommodation can be made.

As we are planting trees on and around 24th Street—a great thing to happen in Noe Valley—I hope we can also prevent the loss of some of our older trees when with a little effort solutions to save them can be found.

Ray Bruijnes
 Noe Valley resident

How to Turn the J-Church Around

Editor:

Rather than improve service on the J-Church streetcar line, Muni has chosen to extend the line to Caltrain, causing even longer waits.

I have e-mailed Muni numerous times with a simple suggestion: turn most of the cars around at 30th Street instead of sending them out to Balboa Park, a segment that has few passengers. Jennifer Ulbrich, the Muni contact person in your story ["City Aims to Get J-Church Back on Track," April 2007 *Voice*], handled my e-mail regarding this matter the same way that others at Muni have dealt with it—no response.

By the way, a Muni operator suggested a simple fix to the fiasco with the J and T lines: Return the J-Church to its former end at the Embarcadero Station. Return the N-Judah to Caltrain. Have the T-Third Street line end at Caltrain.

This would end the new tie-ups underground, along with the problem at Caltrain, where passengers now have to run across an intersection to catch a train.

George Grapman
 Gambier Street

Not Enough Notice of Designs on 24th Street

Editor:

I read your article regarding the long-range design plan for Noe Valley [April 2007]. How nice it was of those select 45 people to judge what will be good for Noe Valley's future. Might I ask who these people were and how they got to decide how city streets—and this is a city neighborhood, not a suburban township—should be shaped?

I was at a CBD meeting where the designs, with some great ideas like the environmentally astute sidewalks, were shown, but heard no word of any forums in November and December. Where were notices posted? Were there mailings? There should have been both.

While the CBD has hard-working members, many neighbors who are not property or business owners in the defined business district will be affected by plans such as these. Odd, isn't it, that a Community Benefit District should ignore much of the community.

Mary McFadden
 24th Street

A Knitter of Community

Editor:

Dean Bistline, the man who sat in the bay window on my corner of Church Street every day since I've lived here, with his miraculously non-trite and non-tacky quotes on the windows, his endless gifts of chocolate and champagne, and much more importantly, his wave, salute, kowtow—whatever he thought fitting for the day, every time I came or went—passed away on Sunday, April 15.

His business card, which hangs on our wall, lists his occupation as "octogenarian," but it was really editor, writer, and knitter of community, in small but enormously important ways.

With his leaving we have lost a part of Noe Valley's soul.

Dana Eckhoff
 Across from Dean's house



LETTERS to the EDITOR

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Remembering James Lick

By Kate Volkman

Remembering middle school requires reaching back into the far dusty corners of one's mind and digging up some awkward memories of adolescence. Perhaps he's blocked them out, because Drewes Brothers proprietor Isaac Epple says he doesn't have any memories that stick out, despite the fact that he graduated from James Lick Middle School in 1988. Surprisingly, it's the alumni of the 1950s and '60s who have vivid mental pictures of their days at the school, which is now celebrating its 75th year in the imposing ivory-colored building on Noe Street.

Rose Shuck was Rose Marie Wielgosz when she attended what was then called James Lick Junior High, in the late 1950s. The school mascot and teams were called the Skippers, and Shuck still remembers the school song. "Skippers stand together, don't forget James Lick," she sings.

"I was going to James Lick when we had that big earthquake in 1956," Shuck recalls. "We were in science class up on the top floor, and the teacher said that in the previous class, things were rattling in the display cases. We were watching a movie, *The Metamorphosis of the Monarch Butterfly*, when the projector fell off the table and everything was shaking. We had to grab the desks in front of us to keep them from falling over."

Shuck also remembers her teachers.



In recalling their favorite moments from James Lick Junior High, many alumni bring up the hair styles and clothes, such as the blue bloomers the girls were required to wear in gym class. The Class of 1940 might also remember the school's mascot, Coach Russell Cabot's dog Skipper (below left).

Photo courtesy Noe Valley Archives.

"We had a wonderful drama teacher, Mr. G., who would talk to us about poetry. My homeroom teacher, Mr. Martin, was a wrestler in his previous life. When he was angry, he would pick up his desk and slam it down. They were very dedicated teachers, as they still are today," she says. She knows because she has two grandchildren who are current students at the school.

"One thing that's definitely changed is the classes!" Shuck laughs. "Back then,

all the girls had to take home-ec classes. There was one class of cooking where we made horrible inedible messes that we were forced to eat. Then we had to sew a circle skirt with the crinoline and whips underneath. We had to make a blouse—it was mandatory. We couldn't take shop classes, but the boys took wood shop and metal shop in the basement."

Perhaps Shuck's most vivid memory is PE class. She says, "We had to take show-

ers, but we didn't actually want to take showers, so we would pretend. We'd get in with our gym suits on and run the water and get our hair a little wet, so it looked like we took a shower. And oh how those gym suits were ugly! They were royal blue bloomers with elastic leg bands."

Joe Cepeda attended James Lick in the early 1960s. While he was a student, gym classes became co-ed. Up until then, there was a divider down the center of the gym, and boys would be on one side and girls on the other. "When they started co-ed gym, it was very controversial," he remembers. "We'd wonder, why are those girls sitting up in the gallery? Turns out they were menstruating, and they had gotten excuse letters from their moms."

As for clothes, "Kids wore peg pants and Pendleton shirts, which are these outside shirts from Oregon. Boys wore nice dress shirts to school, and wingtip shoes! I dressed better in junior high school than I do now," Cepeda laughs.

"But the style started to change with the British invasion in 1963, '64. I remember the first two kids who showed up with Beatles haircuts. They were turned straight around home with letters to their parents. Girls still wore stockings with garter belts and white socks. Everyone wore Chuck Taylors [Converse sneakers]."

His most vivid memory, of course, is the day President Kennedy was assassinated. "I was in Social Studies class in Room 310," he remembers. "First, the principal came around and said the president had been shot. Then he came back and said the president was dead. They sent everybody home for a couple of days."

Santana Helps James Lick Celebrate 75th Anniversary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

end-of-the-year trip to Great America. Food booths offering barbecue, tamales, salads, and other snacks will be manned by parents and students from the PTSA.

The Santana Peace Garden will celebrate the school's values of peace, diversity, creativity, equality, truth, and knowledge. Starting with this year's graduating class, each eighth grade will create a mosaic art wall illustrating these themes. Local artist Paul Lanier, who helped design a similar mosaic mural at Alvarado School in 2000, is the lead artist working with this year's class.

"Many of the students in our school come from neighborhoods where violence is commonplace," says Principal Carmelo Sgarlato. "The goal of the garden is to be a place where students or anyone can reflect on the qualities that sustain peace."

Situated in front of the school's entrance, the garden will welcome students, staff, and visitors. It was designed and planned by James Lick parents, including

landscape architect Jim Stickley. A commemorative sidewalk mosaic will be front and center, with the garden filling the planters to either side. There will be a variety of plants, palm trees, benches, and the art walls, according to Stickley.

At the 2 p.m. stage show, student performances will include groups from the Blue Bear School of Music, music from various rock bands and the choir, an excerpt from the spring performance of *Grease*, and Ballet Folklorico. Additionally, the annual spring fashion show, coordinated by crossing guard Vanessa Williams, will be presented. And there will be other performances from invited guests, including indigenous Mayan dance group Chan Kahal.

A slide show featuring many years of James Lick memorabilia will follow in the auditorium. Several alumni have donated old photographs, clothing such as an honor society sweater and a beanie cap, pins, and an attendance card from the 1950s. Loughran remarks, "The clothes are so small! Our kids are so much bigger now."

Throughout the day, students will give tours of the art deco building. The school was named for carpenter, piano builder, land baron, and science patron James Lick, who was the wealthiest man in California when he died in 1876. His will

stipulated that his wealth be used for the public good.

The current structure was completed in 1932, hence the 75th anniversary. However, James Lick has existed as a school since at least the 1890s. The original structure, a grammar school, was at 25th and Castro streets in what is now the upper yard/parking lot. Over the years, the school has served grades 1-7, 7-9, and now serves grades 6-8.

The school's team name and mascot have also changed over the years. In the 1950s, they were the Skippers. By the 1980s, they were the Pirates, and in the 1990s they became the Bulldogs.

Aside from hairstyles and clothing, there are two areas in which James Lick Middle School has changed dramatically over the years: ethnic diversity and academic focus. The old-time photographs show that students in the 1930s and '40s were almost all white. Now, there's a mix of mostly Latino, African-American, and Asian students, with white students in the minority. "As we prepared the 75th anniversary yearbook, that was the first

thing these current students noticed," says yearbook teacher Tobi Hacker. "They didn't identify really at all with the students from earlier decades."

"The biggest highlight for the school is that we've been improving our test scores steadily," says parent and former PTSA president Heidi Anderson. She adds that the school is also known for its Spanish-immersion program.

Loughran points out that in recent years the school has made an effort to offer electives in music, visual arts, and peer resources, which are made available to all students by adding an extra period to the school day.

One of those electives is yearbook, and this year's editorial staff will proudly offer pre-purchase of the 75th anniversary yearbook during the celebration on May 12. Yearbooks will be available for pickup in early June.

The Santana Peace Garden Committee, led by landscape architect Jim Stickley, will sponsor a volunteer workday on Wednesday, May 9, starting at 9 a.m. All are welcome to participate.

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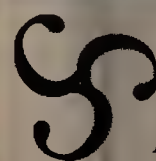
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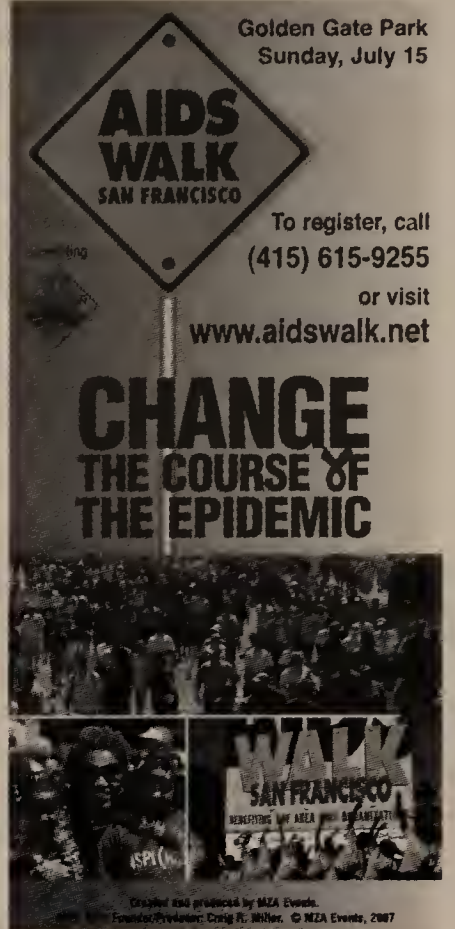
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Nutraceutical Plans To Tear Down and Rebuild Real Food

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fired workers and community input into the store's future.

After Nutraceutical bought the building, neighbors hoped they might finally see some action, but the storefront remains shrouded in paper. The company attributed the long delay to planning for a more extensive renovation.

Now, according to Sergio Diaz, vice president of Fresh Organics, Inc., a Nutraceutical subsidiary, the company plans to demolish the existing building and start from scratch.

"We are anticipating filing for permits over the next few weeks, as well as meeting with different neighborhood representatives to discuss our proposal," Diaz told the *Voice* in late April.

Though he gave few specifics, Diaz described the proposed construction as "a mixed-use building with retail, commercial, and residential" elements.

Based on his own conversations with the company, Supervisor Dufty said the plans call for a grocery store on the first floor, a second-floor community space, and a public roof deck.

Merchants and Neighbors Weigh In

Such an extensive project will require a discretionary review process, which will give the community some leverage in its negotiations with the company. It remains to be seen whether the neighborhood will be able to reach a consensus, but most parties appear to have similar goals.

Local merchants—some of whom say their businesses have suffered due to decreased foot traffic since the store's clo-

sure—are eager to see something get under way as soon as possible.

"Obviously there's frustration, but even more anticipation," said Teresa Gay Morisco, co-president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. "The overall mood among the merchants is that we're ready for something to happen. We also want to work with [Nutraceutical] to rebuild relationships with the community and merchants, which have certainly deteriorated over the past three years."

"I think everyone agrees that it's been a totally negative effect, both to have lost a healthy food store and to have any store vacant in the middle of downtown Noe Valley for so many years, not to mention how they handled laying off their employees," added Richard May, president of the residents group Friends of Noe Valley. "If they're smart, they will admit they made a mistake and say what they'll do to make up for it. They have to be good community citizens."

Neighborhood activists—who at various points have discussed strategies such as boycotting the store when it reopens, purchasing the building to operate a natural food store as a public-private partnership, and even asking the city to take over the property as a "blight" under the health code—appear to have softened their stance.

"My position is, and always has been, that Nutraceutical must engage with the neighborhood if they intend to return here after having caused so much harm. If they remain indifferent to the negative effects of their closure, then we will not blithely embrace them when they return, simply because we have no choice," said Elizabeth Street resident Peter Gabel, who spearheaded the community response after the store's closure in 2003. "However, we also want to do everything possible to support our local merchants and a thriv-

ing 24th Street."

Gabel added that he and other activists plan to call a neighborhood meeting once Nutraceutical submits its plans and files for a permit.

Company Reluctant to Set Dates

As to when the store might reopen, Diaz—whose many previous estimates over the years have come to naught—declined to give a firm timeline.

"We cannot predict at this point the final time frame, since the permitting and construction processes usually take several months and frequently change," he said. "However, we will keep working diligently to reopen the store as quickly as possible."

Judging from past projects, the city's permitting process could take as long as six months—or longer if the neighborhood puts up resistance—and construc-

tion itself could add an additional year or more.

"I advised [the company] not to delay submitting their plans," Dufty told the *Voice*. "The permit process gives them an incentive to engage with the community in a way they have not done in the past. There's not a lot of community space in Noe Valley, so that's a reasonable offer. But a social justice component is also essential. They can't just substitute a space for addressing community concerns."

"I don't think anyone wants to push Nutraceutical away from the table," he added. "We're all eager to get them to the table and get something done." ■



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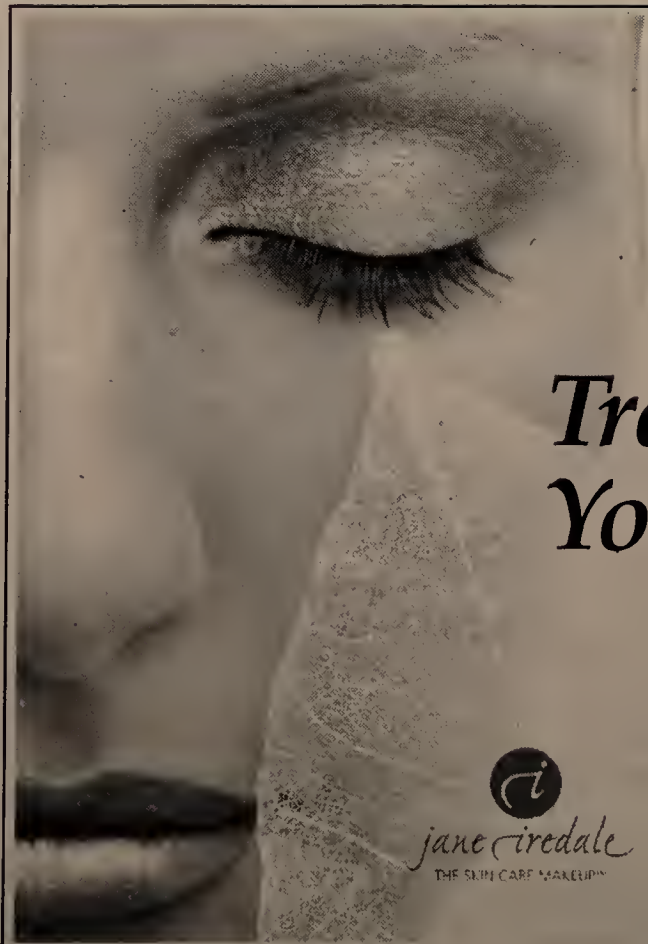
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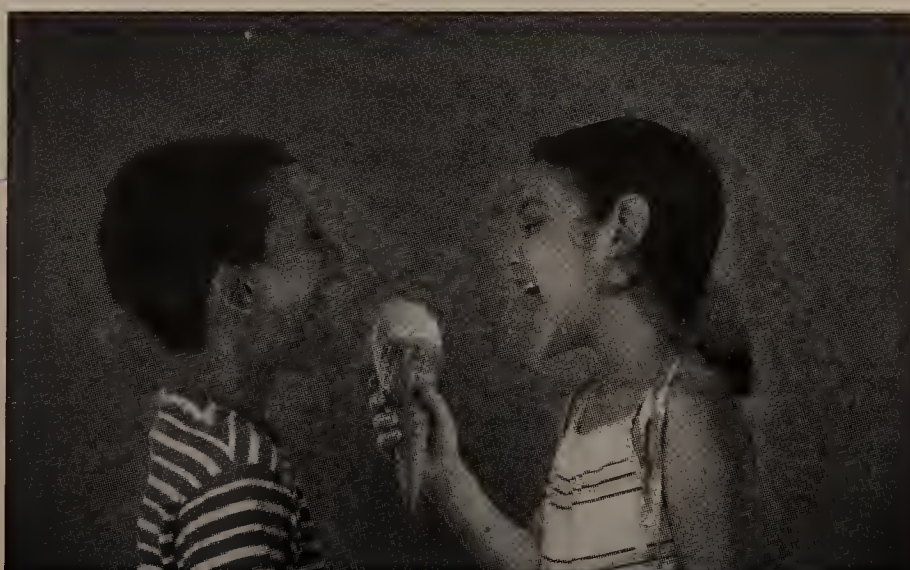
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Illustrator LeUyen Pham's Storybook Career

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pasadena, where there was a large Vietnamese population.

Fast-forward to Pham's college years. She had always drawn pictures—doodling in the margins of her notebooks—but her parents had other plans for her, career-wise. "The thing with immigrant families is that everyone is supposed to go into a profession," Pham explains. "I was supposed to be a lawyer. It was my mother's dream."

In high school, Pham had been ostensibly on board with her mother's dream, even while she worked at a bookstore and used her employee discount to buy all her favorite picture books. Still, she majored in political science at UCLA. Her artistic talent, however, caught the eye of the head of the art department, who saw immediately that Pham was *not* going to be a lawyer. "He told me, 'You belong in art school, not here.'" He then called his contacts at the prestigious Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, where Pham got an interview, won a scholarship to pay the tuition, and spent the next three years in an accelerated program. "I felt on the right track," Pham says. "I was glad I had my two years at UCLA, but the Art Center was amazing."

Another stroke of luck came Pham's way when she went to a talk at her school given by the then fledgling animation studio DreamWorks (producer of animated hits like *Shrek* and *Shrek Tale*) in the mid-1990s. "I totally lied to get an interview," Pham says with a laugh. One of the speakers, Lorenzo Martinez, was the head of the layout department. After the talk, he and his colleagues were flooded with students, including Pham, who overheard Martinez giving his contact information to another eager student.

"I called DreamWorks' general number, asked to speak to him, and told him that we had spoken at the talk and that he had agreed to look at my portfolio and give me some career advice," she says, grinning. "I think he appreciated that I wasn't asking him for a job."

Martinez loved a 40-page wordless picture book Pham had created. He advised her to apply for a summer internship with SGI, which did the animation for *Jurassic Park*. Pham's luck held—she won the internship.

The semester before she graduated in 1997, DreamWorks offered her a job in its layout department. "I was the only girl and the youngest in layout," Pham says. "It was great to be with the best artists in the world—I learned so much there."

But the world of animation began to change. Pham was working in a new department called 2-D/3-D, where she used her drawing skills as well as what she had learned at SGI to lay out animated movies. "In layout, you do the drawings, and you have to be an all-around wonderful draftsman," Pham explains. "But those draftsmen were being replaced with 3-D modelers, who have a strong compositional eye but don't have to draw well. I had gone into animation to draw, but I was hardly ever drawing."

On the side, Pham had started to illus-



LeUyen Pham drew on her own experience as a little sister to write and illustrate the children's favorite *Big Sister, Little Sister*.

trate children's books. "It's a tough [industry] to get into," Pham says. "I was very"—that word again—"lucky."

Her first project came from Harcourt Brace. In art school, she had won third place in a contest sponsored by the publishing house, and they liked her stuff. They offered her a children's book cover and pencil illustrations for *The Sugarcane*



LeUyen Pham used warm, earthy tones for the illustrations of *A Father Like That*, co-authored with Charlotte Zolotow.

House, written by Adrienne Bond. The editor praised Pham's work. "She told me it's really difficult to find illustrators who can give animals human qualities."

They asked her to submit some drawings for a picture book by Eve Bunting called *Can You Do This, Old Badger?* The book was a big hit and was named a Book-of-the-Month Club selection for 2000. With two more contracts under her belt, and after three years at DreamWorks, Pham quit her day job.

Pham took her savings and traveled around the world. A DreamWorks friend, a Frenchman named Alex Puvilland, heard she needed a place to stay in Paris and found her a cheap apartment. When he learned that Pham had broken up with her boyfriend, he showed up on her Parisian doorstep. The two were married in the fall of 2005 and now live in a flat near the Eureka Valley Library.

For the last seven years, Pham has paid her bills by illustrating children's books, her lifelong dream. By her best guess, she has illustrated about 30 books. She does three or four each year and has authored one herself, *Big Sister, Little Sister*. Written as a gift to Pham's older sister, LeChi, the book was an instant success when it was published in 2005. Pham

held her launch party at Cover to Cover Booksellers (she used to live up the street on the corner of Castro and 26th, above the Noe Valley Aikido studio). Pham has also designed the bookstore's bookmark and book bag designs.

One of the things that distinguishes Pham is that she has so many drawing styles and can change with the times. Just compare *Big Sister* to her latest book, *A Father Like That*, published last month. Written by Charlotte Zolotow, *A Father Like That* is a bittersweet story about a fatherless boy who imagines what life would be like with a dad. Pham's illustrations are warm, bright, and colorful, filling the page with realistic, painterly renderings of urban family life. *Big Sister, Little Sister*, in contrast, is done with bold, black brushstrokes and a simple color scheme of browns and pinks.

Pham works with a variety of tools, including brush pens, watercolor, gouache, pencil, and the computer. "My goal is to always keep people guessing as to how the illustrations are done," Pham says.

Being one of the best in the business means Pham gets to rub shoulders with some famous authors, not all of them traditional children's book writers. Currently, she's at work on a book for Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and she recently finished up a book for actress Julianne Moore called *Freckleface Strawberry*, due in stores this October.

Moore wanted Pham to appear with her on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* to talk about the book, but Pham declined. "That's not my thing," she says with a shrug and smile. She is content to stay down to earth in her home studio, collaborating on a comic book with movie tie-ins—a hush-hush project until it's done—with her husband. How lucky is that? ■

For a peek at the animated characters designed by LeUyen Pham (her first name is pronounced "Win"—"People call me Win, like Winnie the Pooh"), go to her fun web site: www.leuyenpham.com. Or you can find her children's books at Cover to Cover on Castro and Phoenix Books on 24th Street.

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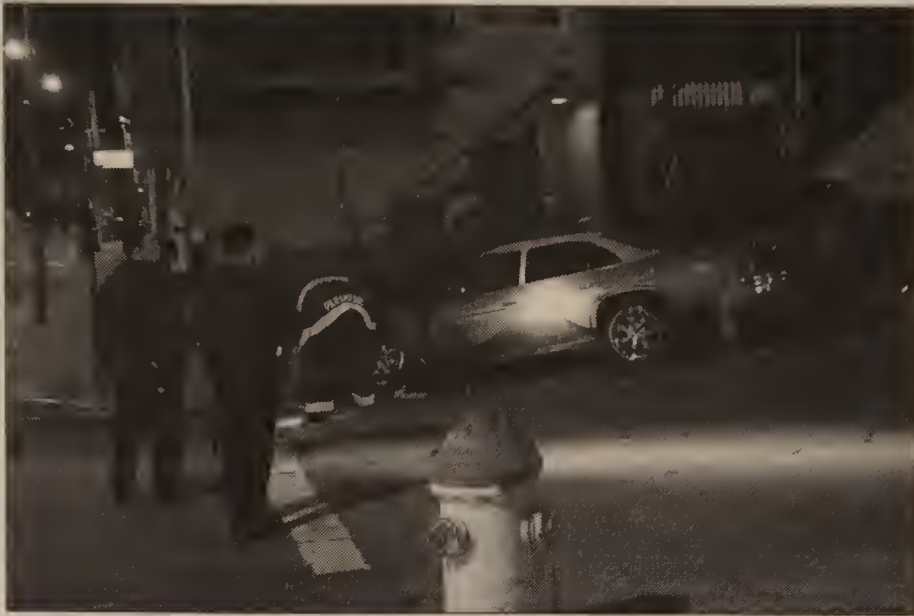
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Police and firefighters converged on the corner of Church and Jersey streets after the deadly crash at 12:30 a.m. April 16. Photo by Jan Brittonson

Crash Has a Tragic Ending

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ford Ranger pickup, before careening into a row of parked cars on the northeast corner of Jersey Street.

According to a second witness, who ran out of her house after hearing the crash, firefighters extricated Avery, the sole occupant, from his vehicle, but she heard them say he was not breathing. A spokesperson from the San Francisco medical examiner's office said Avery was pronounced dead at the scene.

The observer, who declined to give her name, said police pulled Cortez out of his car and handcuffed him on the ground, before medics took him away on a stretcher.

Cortez was taken to San Francisco General Hospital, where he was booked on suspicion of homicide, burglary, and possession of stolen property. An-SFGH spokesperson told the *Voice* on April 19 that Cortez remained in the hospital in stable condition.

He Was a Great Father

A native San Franciscan, Avery attended Miraloma Elementary School and graduated from Balboa High School in 1967. He met his wife, Marjolaine, while traveling in Guatemala, and the couple

had a son, Djerson, 31, and a daughter, Noelle, 27. The family had lived on 20th Street near Douglass since 1985, after moving from 18th and Castro streets.

Noelle Avery said her father, who worked as a taxi driver with Veterans Cab Company for 35 years, was on his way home from work when the crash occurred. She said he was an avid gardener, loved to cook, and "knew his wines."

"He was a wonderful man with a great sense of humor," she told the *Voice*. "He was a wonderful husband and a wonderful father."

A memorial service for John Avery was held Saturday, April 21.



John Avery lived in Noe Valley for 22 years.



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Park Facelift on Schedule for Completion in '08

Upper Noe Rec Center Attracts New Group of Friends

By Lorraine Sanders

Renovations at the Upper Noe Park and Recreation Center are on schedule and progressing as planned, despite ongoing debate over the park's designated dog play area and its proposed expansion along Day Street.

At the same time, Noe Valley residents are organizing fundraising efforts aimed at outfitting the center with equipment and upgrades not included in the city's \$11 million project budget.

Construction on the park and recreation center, which were originally built during the 1950s, began last September and will continue through the early part of next year.

"We're on schedule to be substantially completed in January," said Keith Kawamura, the Recreation and Parks Department project director overseeing the park improvements.

When the park and recreation center do reopen next year, residents will find new playground structures, benches, tables, irrigation systems, palm trees and other landscaping outdoors, as well as new flooring, roofing, doors, kitchen facilities, and bathrooms inside the center. Both the indoor and outdoor basketball courts will receive upgrades, and new fencing will border at least half of the park's perimeter.

Fundraising for Furniture

While frequent park visitors welcome the renovations, many say additional improvements are necessary to create a fully functional park and recreation center.

"[The city] is refurbishing and upgrading the look and doing seismic retrofitting, but inside, there's nothing to do or play with," explained Sanchez Street resident Alexandra Torre.

Along with members of the Noe Valley Parents Network and the Upper Noe Neighbors, Torre has been leading efforts to launch a fundraising campaign that



The 1950s-era buildings at Day and Sanchez streets will be transformed over the next year to a park and recreation center sporting new playground equipment, refurbished basketball courts, new trees, and an expanded dog run with a second entrance. Photo by Pamela Gerard

would pay for additions to the recreation center's interiors. Through a combination of grants, community donations, fundraising events, and in-kind corporate contributions, the newly created group, called the Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center (FNVRC), hopes to raise between \$200,000 and \$250,000 by the second quarter of 2008.

Funds would be used to purchase an array of items, including children's toys, kitchen appliances, tables and chairs, audiovisual equipment, a retractable screen for viewing movies, a piano, and possibly a PA system for the indoor basketball court. To kick off the campaign, the FNVRC has launched a new web site, created by Karen Opp, that offers background information on the renovation project, updates, and a form for submitting donations online.

The group also is planning a June 3 block party along Day Street "to give people a chance to come together and get updates," said Torre. The party will run from noon to 4 p.m. and will have food, entertainment, and activities for kids.

In the coming months, residents can expect to see information tables for the campaign at the Saturday Farmers' Market on 24th Street. Other events, including a series of fundraising cocktail parties in neighborhood homes, are in the works.

pervisor Bevan Dufty and members of the Recreation and Park Department, roughly half of the Noe Valley residents in attendance were in favor of continuing with the city's plans to expand the dog run, while the other half called for new plans.

The city's current scheme, which is set to go ahead in mid-May, would expand the dog play area by adding a 12-foot-wide strip and a new entrance along Day Street, a move opponents argue would significantly increase noise levels and disturb residents living near the park, especially at night. Opponents also worry that the park might become more of a magnet for underage drinking.

Although residents were seemingly split down the middle on the issue of the dog run's size and location, most agreed that the space sorely needed an additional entrance. (Right now, pet owners can only access the narrow exercise area from the 30th Street side of the park, and many consider that an unsafe situation.)

"Everybody in the neighborhood agreed that there needed to be a second means of egress, but there wasn't a magic plan to do that," said Supervisor Dufty, acknowledging that the Day Street strip was not a perfect solution.

While neighbors continue the debate over the dog play area, Dufty has reluctantly cast his lot with the current expansion plans.

"Although I recognize how unhappy the Day Street neighbors are, I'm not going to pursue [starting over]. We need to move forward with the existing plan, and be careful with how we structure planting and landscaping to mitigate noise," he said.

For more information about the Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center, the fundraising campaign, or volunteer opportunities at the park, visit www.noevalleyreccenter.com or send an e-mail to noe_park@atorre.com.

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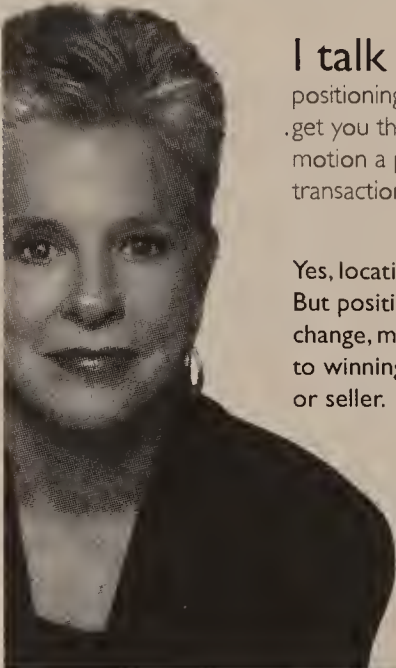
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Bidding Wars Are Back

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley home buyers who closed escrow in March—and there were a large number of them—discovered that sellers once again were firmly in the driver's seat.

Home shoppers purchased 15 single-family homes during the month, compared with eight in February and 11 in March one year earlier, according to sales data Zephyr Real Estate provides to the *Voice*.

A low inventory of homes for sale pushed buyers into bidding wars, forcing them to overpay for property and to complete their transactions especially quickly, said Randall Kostick, Zephyr's general sales manager. Buyers on average paid 9 percent more than the seller's asking price, and closed escrow in less than three weeks, compared to the more leisurely 8 to 12 weeks in January and February.

Kostick said two factors appeared to be keeping the inventory on the skimpy side: interest rates and property taxes. Many owners purchased their homes five years ago with excellent mortgage rates. They were reluctant to give them up. They also worried that their property taxes would increase markedly if they had to purchase another similarly-priced home.

Instead, they decided to stay put. Those types of owners "often are referred to as people who are married to their interest rate and property taxes," Kostick said.

Noe Valley real estate remained the province of the wealthy in March. The sales data showed that 13 of the 15 homes sold for at least \$1 million—and two sold for at least \$2 million. The average sales price for a single-family home in the neighborhood was just over \$1.4 million.

Six condominiums sold in March, matching sales both in February and one year ago. Buyers also paid a premium for condos—3 percent more than the asking price—and sealed their deals in just over three weeks.

Sales were also robust for two-flat Victorians and small apartment buildings, which groups of individuals often buy as a less expensive alternative to condos. Zephyr said seven buildings of two-to-four units changed hands in March, compared with four the previous month and three one year earlier.

The two most expensive residential sales last month both occurred in the southern part of Noe Valley.

Buyers paid \$2,879,000 for a four-bedroom, 3½-bath home, with 3,900 square feet of space, in the 500 block of Valley Street between Diamond and Castro streets.

Another four-bedroom, 3½-bath home sold for \$2.1 million. It is in the 600 block of 28th Street between Douglass and Diamond streets.

A two-bedroom, one-bath condo in the 3800 block of 22nd Street between Castro and Noe streets sold for \$1,025,000. ■



Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
March 2007	15	\$910,000	\$2,879,000	\$1,411,800	20	109%
February 2007	8	\$1,040,000	\$2,725,000	\$1,437,250	39	103%
March 2006	11	\$785,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,201,545	35	106%
Condominiums						
March 2007	6	\$721,000	\$1,025,000	\$873,333	23	103%
February 2007	6	\$475,000	\$1,050,000	\$810,000	47	103%
March 2006	6	\$610,000	\$1,502,000	\$1,094,333	46	106%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
March 2007	7	\$1,275,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,544,643	38	105%
February 2007	4	\$1,270,000	\$1,960,000	\$1,488,750	64	100%
March 2006	3	\$1,321,000	\$1,706,000	\$1,492,000	21	106%
5+-unit buildings						
March 2007	0	—	—	—	—	—
February 2007	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2006	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for supplying the sales data. NVV 5/07

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents April 2007	Average April 2007	Average A Year Ago
Studio	8	\$1,300 – \$2,950	\$1,611 / mo.	\$1,170 / mo.
1-bedroom	15	\$1,350 – \$2,700	\$1,850 / mo.	\$1,791 / mo.
2-bedroom	26	\$1,700 – \$4,750	\$2,516 / mo.	\$2,724 / mo.
3-bedroom	16	\$2,200 – \$6,500	\$3,973 / mo.	\$3,735 / mo.
4+-bedroom	3	\$4,000 – \$5,500	\$4,616 / mo.	\$6,325 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 68 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist.com from March 25 to April 20, 2007. NVV 5/07

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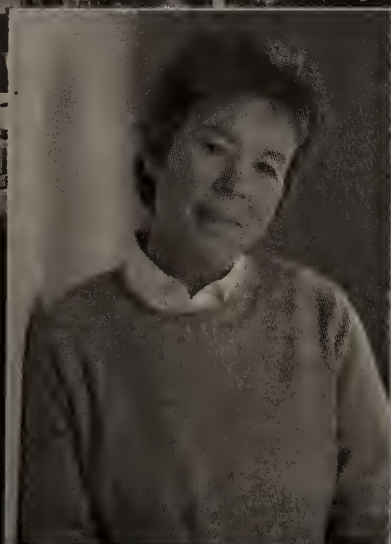
Donna's Noe Valley Listings



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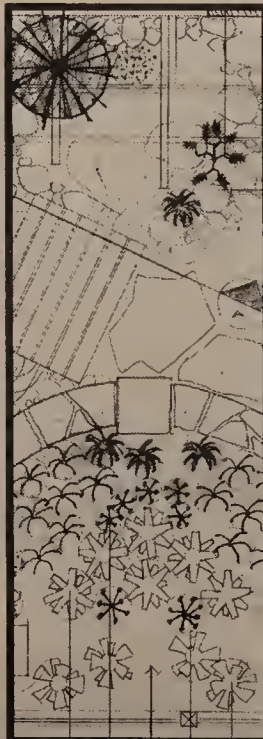
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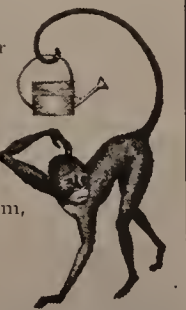
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POLICE BEAT

Police Beat is a review of crime incidents in Noe Valley occurring in the most recent month for which we have statistics. The area covered in the Voice survey is bordered by Grand View, 21st, Fair Oaks, and 30th streets. The March 2007 crime information was culled from incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside Police Stations, and from police announcements and newsletters.

Cops Halt Traffic

By Erin O'Briant

Crime in Noe Valley continued to abate during March 2007. During the month, police received reports of 55 crimes, as compared with 74 in January. There were two drug incidents, five assaults, seven burglaries, 10 vehicle thefts, 11 cases of vandalism, and 20 incidents of theft or larceny.

Although crime was up slightly from February—when 49 incident reports were filed—no street robberies were reported

in March and most of the neighborhood's criminal activity was vehicle-related. One reason the bad guys may have shied away was that police were more visible. Officers from Ingleside Police Station, which serves Noe Valley south of Cesar Chavez Street, issued nearly a thousand traffic citations in an effort to slow traffic and protect pedestrians.

Tickets for Troublemakers

Ingleside Police Station Capt. Paul Chignell announced that officers from his station issued 943 moving traffic citations during February, the highest number in the city. But that was nothing compared to March, when officers from that station issued a whopping 1,495 traffic citations, according to statistics provided by Chignell. That was about double the number issued by the same station the month before—765. During the last week in March alone, Ingleside officers issued 387 tickets.

According to Chignell, the average number of monthly tickets per police station is between 300 and 600. He said officers ticketed drivers who were speeding or ignoring stop signs in response to community requests and concerns about pedestrian safety. Overall, San Francisco police issued 11,961 traffic citations during March, up from 8,017 during the same month the year before.

Four Wheels, No Brakes

Several unusual crimes involving cars took place in Noe Valley during March. At 8 p.m. on the first day of the month, a Thursday, an officer stopped a person who was having trouble moving his vehicle out of a parking spot at 29th and Sanchez streets. He also appeared to be drunk. When the man refused to get out of his car, the officer arrested him for driving under the influence of alcohol.

A few minutes later, two other officers

arrested a domestic violence suspect who lives in Noe Valley. He had allegedly injured his wife's leg by slamming a car door on it. The man was arrested on three felony charges.

Late in the evening of Sunday, March 25, a cab driver took a customer to the 400 block of 29th Street. When they arrived, however, the customer refused to pay the fare. The driver locked him in the cab until he paid. He did—but as the customer left, he allegedly punched the cab driver in the face. Responding officers found the suspect, who lives on the block, hiding near a parked vehicle. He was cited for battery.

Burglars Like Warm Weather, Too

In the Mission Station newsletter issued March 26, Lt. Tim Oberzeir offered some suggestions for keeping your home safe from burglary. Here's what he wrote:

"I thought it would be helpful to remind residents to secure their homes when leaving for the day. It's not a coincidence that burglaries increase during warm weather months. Burglars are not skilled professionals. They take advantage of an easy target.

"Although home burglaries may seem random in occurrence, they actually involve a selection process. The burglar's selection process is simple: choose an unoccupied home with the easiest access, the greatest amount of cover, and the best escape routes. Make your property more difficult to enter and less enticing. Secure your doors and windows."

Oberzeir also advised residents who would like a free security assessment of their home or apartment to call the non-profit safety organization San Francisco SAFE at 553-1966.

Police Tow Abandoned Cars

Police officers are also working to get abandoned vehicles off the streets. If you

see a vehicle on your block with a registration that has been expired for six months or more, e-mail Capt. Chignell at Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org or Mission Police at SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. The officers will have the car towed unless they discover that the fees have already been paid.

How to Contact the SFPD

Noe Valley is covered by two police districts, Mission and Ingleside. The northern half of the neighborhood, including 24th Street, falls within the Mission Police District, which extends east of Twin Peaks to the Bayshore Freeway and south of Market Street to Cesar Chavez Street. The southern half (Upper Noe Valley) is the territory of the Ingleside Police District, which runs south from Cesar Chavez Street to the San Mateo County line.

Both the Ingleside and Mission Police Districts hold monthly police-community meetings. Ingleside meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. Mission community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. The public is invited.

"Downtown" Noe Valleyans may reach Mission Station by calling 558-5400 or e-mailing SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. To report anonymously on drugs or gangs, call Mission Station's hotline at 575-4444.

Residents and merchants in Upper Noe Valley may contact Ingleside Police by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing SFPDIglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us. The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984.

For citywide online reporting, go to www.sfgov.org/site/police.

To sign up for Ingleside Station's daily crime e-newsletter, e-mail Ingleside Capt. Paul Chignell at Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org. To request the Mission e-newsletter, write Capt. John Goldberg at SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. If it's a non-emergency, call 553-0123.

Online Reporting

The SFPD now has an online reporting system for the following crimes:

- Lost Property
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Vehicle Tampering
- Vehicle Burglary
- Harassing Phone Calls

Using this system allows you to submit a report and instantly print out a copy. Additional information is available at the SFPD's web site: www.sfgov.org/site/police.

Unique Architectural Beauty in Noe Valley

Designed by architect, mom and owner Maura Fernandez Abernethy Design, this upscale home incorporates custom features for practical living, working and entertaining.

The Victorian façade represents an era of beauty that is well known in San Francisco, but stepping inside immediately brings you into the present. This amazing contemporary home combines the elements of modernist and traditional in a livable way.

There are 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, home office and formal living and dining rooms. The kitchen is fabulously equipped and is open to a kitchenette and enormous great room. Natural light floods the home and rarely do you need to switch a light on during the day. There is radiant heat throughout as well as 11 ft. ceilings and upgrades too many to mention; but all designed with energy efficiency and the environment in mind.

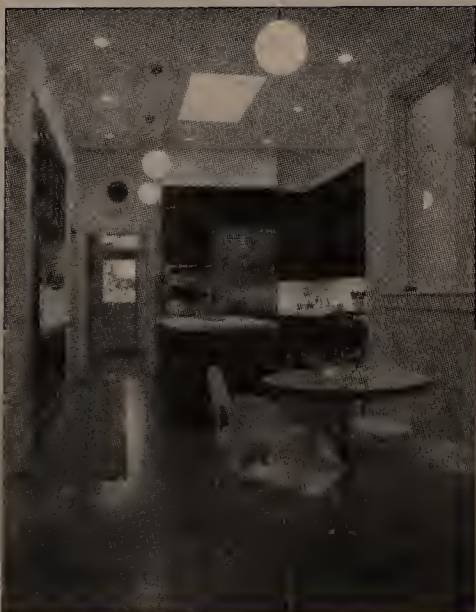
The southern yard is useable and inviting, and the home's location is perfect: only 2 blocks to 24th St. and the J-Line, and a short distance to BART.

Please contact the listing agent for details and showings:

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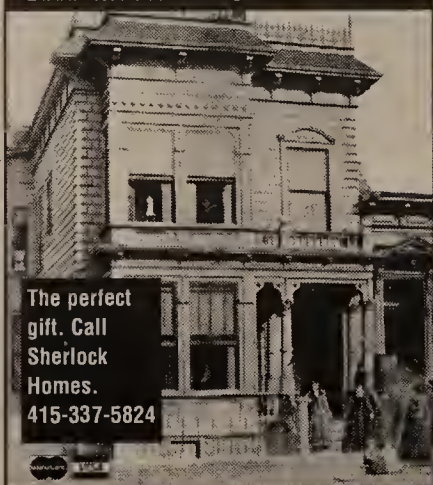
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SHORT TAKES

By Erin O'Briant

The Fairest of Them All

The neighbors of Fair Oaks Street take to the sidewalks on Saturday, May 12, for their 32nd annual street fair to benefit the Jamestown Community Center. Fair Oaks Street residents from more than 100 homes will hold garage sales and sell homemade goodies to raise money for Jamestown, which serves more than 500 Mission District youth ages 8 to 18.

"Look for furniture large and small, antiques, kitchen equipment, clothing, kids' toys, and books, books, books," says co-organizer Blair Moser.

The food for sale will include a breakfast of homemade scones with strawberries and clotted cream at Holy Innocents Church in the 400 block of Fair Oaks, lemonade stands, hot dogs, burgers, and shish kebabs. Moser says a giant bake sale, complete with Starbucks Coffee, will be set up in the 100 block of Fair Oaks Street.

The fair begins bright and early at 9 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. If it rains, the event will be rescheduled for Saturday, May 19.

Fair Oaks is the five-block Victorian-lined street that runs from 21st to 26th, between Dolores and Guerrero streets.

Chanting into Stillness

The non-profit Healing Yoga Foundation invites you to "experience stillness" at an Evening of Vedic Chanting with renowned yoga master T.K.V. Desikachar on Sunday, May 6, at the Noe Valley Ministry. Born in Chennai, India, Desikachar is the son of spiritual leader Sri Tirumalai Krishnamacharya (1888-1989) and one of the world's most prominent teachers of hatha yoga, which emphasizes breathing and meditation. Chase Bossart and Kate Holcombe, of the Healing Yoga Foundation, will also participate.

"The concert will be mostly chanting by [Desikachar], with a few people joining him," explains organizer Lizzie Nichols. "We will try and get people involved with a call-and-response portion, too."

The *Vedas* are the sacred texts that form the basis of Hinduism, and the practice of Vedic chanting consists of repeating three notes to achieve concentration and peace of mind. A \$20 donation is suggested, and all proceeds benefit the Healing Yoga Foundation. To reserve a space, e-mail Nichols at lizzie@healingyoga.org.

The event takes place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the church, located at 1021 Sanchez Street between Elizabeth and 23rd streets.

Panel on Iraq War Veterans

The treatment and reintegration into society of wounded Iraq War veterans will be the topic of a panel discussion at this month's meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, May 14.

Panelists will include Amy Fairweather, a lawyer representing the veterans' association Swords to Plowshares; Carol Fleischman, a substance abuse counselor who has worked with veterans for more than 10 years through the Veterans Administration; Romeo Horvath, a veteran and a counselor; Nicole Rivera, a veterans affairs expert from the San Francisco office of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi; and California National Guard Captain Antoine Brooks. Brooks was Horvath's platoon officer. Both served five months in Karbala and finished their year of service in Iraq at Abu Ghraib.

According to NVDC member Noel

Lieberman, the Democratic Club program is an effort to study ways to improve medical care and social support for returning veterans in Northern California. The meeting, to be held at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street, is free and open to the public.

Third Harvest Fest Set for October

The folks who brought the neighborhood the second Harvest Festival a little more than six months ago have already set a date for the 2007 celebration: Saturday, Oct. 13. They're asking local residents and merchants to mark the date on the calendar and begin thinking about how to participate in the fair, which centers on 24th Street between Sanchez and Church streets.

Those who would like to volunteer should contact festival chair Norine Traci-Maloney at norinemaloney@yahoo.com. To find out about sponsorship, e-mail Friends of Noe Valley president Richard May at rambooks@pacbell.net. Applications and information for vendors are available from Forbeadin's shop owner Donna Davis at forbeadn@pacbell.net or Lisa Sherratt of Ladybug Ladybug at leeseandal8@aol.com, and folks who would like to make prize donations should e-mail Liz Nash of Hot Headz salon at glenn.nash@flysfo.com.

The committee doesn't have entertainment lined up, but if you'd like to make a music suggestion, contact Glenn Nash at glenn.nash@flysfo.com or Andrew Keeler at ak@keelerkom.com.

Country Joe Channels Woody Guthrie

Sixties and folk music fans can reconnect with their roots at the Noe Valley Music Series this month, when rock legend Country Joe McDonald (of Country Joe & the Fish) presents a tribute performance to Woody Guthrie. According to series organizer Larry Kassin, this concert isn't just about music—Country Joe will do a bit of theater as well as songs and stories about Guthrie. Woody Guthrie, the famous folksinger and songwriter who performed from the 1930s to the '50s, died in 1967.

Country Joe's tribute is scheduled for 8:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. Doors open 30 minutes before the concert. Tickets are \$23 in advance or \$25 at the door and are available in the neighborhood at Streetlight Records, 3979 24th Street; 282-3550. Online tickets are available at www.tickets.com. To find out more about the Noe Valley Music Series, visit www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

Lick Musicians at Blue Bear

Members of the James Lick Middle School Band will perform with Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner Booker T. Jones at a benefit for the Blue Bear School of Music.

Scheduled for Saturday, May 12, at 8 p.m. at the Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell Street, the evening will also feature Bonnie Hayes, Vicki Randle, Sista Monica, the Jazz Mafia Horns, and another youth group, the Woodside International School Band. Shantytown will perform a late-night set, and deejay Sterling James will serve as mistress of ceremonies.

The fundraiser also includes a silent auction with, among other items, guitars autographed by Ben Harper and the late James Brown. VIP tickets are \$125 and general admission is \$60. Currently enrolled Blue Bear students and anyone whose membership is current may purchase one general admission ticket for \$45 by phone or in person at the school. Proceeds from the evening go to benefit the non-profit school's music programs



Paula Benton helped run the stroller derby in last year's Harvest Festival. This year's event has been set for Oct. 13, and planners are already scouting for volunteers. Photo by Sally Smith

for youth. To purchase tickets or find out more about Blue Bear, visit www.bluebearschool.org.

Garden Tour Flowers June 9

The 2007 Noe Valley Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 9, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and tickets go on sale Saturday, May 12. According to co-organizer Richard May, proceeds from the tour will go toward landscaping James Lick Middle School, specifically the school's new peace garden on the Noe Street side. The June garden walk will include carefully selected gardens throughout the neighborhood, including the one cultivated by elders at the On Lok Senior Center on 30th Street.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and free for children ages 12 and under. Several neighborhood merchants are selling tickets (at no extra charge), including Cover to Cover Booksellers, 1307 Castro Street near 24th Street; Curves at Church and 29th streets; Ladybug Ladybug at 3870 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez streets; Lisa Violetto, 3932 24th Street between Sanchez and Noe streets; Noe Valley Bakery at 4073 24th Street near Castro Street; and Small Frys, 4066 24th Street, also near Castro Street.

If you'd prefer to order tickets by mail, make a check out to Friends of Noe Valley for \$10, multiplied by the number of tickets you want, and mail it to P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146. Include your address or a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Tickets will also be

available during the tour at all seven gardens. For more information, e-mail May at rambooks@pacbell.net.

A Better Place to Live

This month's meeting of the Friends of Noe Valley will focus on the question: How do we make this neighborhood even more livable? A panel discussion is scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 7:30 p.m., at 4128 24th Street between Castro and Diamond streets.

According to Friends president Richard May, panelists will include representatives of Mayor Gavin Newsom's SF Better Streets, a private San Francisco improvement organization called Livable City, Friends of the Urban Forest, and the Department of Public Works. They will each present ideas and alternatives for better streets and sidewalks. Also, DPW will explain utility undergrounding and the new rules on sidewalk strip planting.

May hopes the meeting will allow better coordination between local business groups and residents on the future look of Noe Valley. For more information, e-mail May at rambooks@pacbell.net.

Classical Musical on Mother's Day

Music-loving mothers (and non-mothers, too) will enjoy the Noe Valley Chamber Music gala and silent auction on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13, at 4 p.m. A special reception for the classical series

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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

will feature wine, light appetizers, and dessert.

Noe Valley pianist and composer Jake Heggie will perform with vocalists Mamie Breckenridge, Catherine Cook, Nicolle Foland, and Ann Moss, as well as instrumentalists Julie McKenzie, flute; Leslie Tagorda, clarinet; David Henderson, saxophone; Laura Albers, violin; Emil Miland, cello; and Richard Worn, bass.

At the silent auction, participants can bid on items including wine, art, tickets to local performances, and gift certificates to restaurants and other local businesses. The program includes selections from Bach, Bernstein, and Heggie himself. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Noe Valley Chamber Music Series, launched 15 years ago.

Tickets are \$40 general admission or \$35 for subscribers. For tickets or more information, visit www.nvcm.org or call 648-5236.

Mission Studios Spring Open

This month, a new collaboration among Mission District artists will allow art lovers to see the work of more than 300 artists working close to Noe Valley. All the studios are within blocks of each other in the area bordered by 17th Street, 21st Street, Mission Street, and Potrero Avenue, and organizers say much of the artwork available is affordable.

A preview night is scheduled for Friday, May 11, from 7 to 11 p.m., when visitors can walk from venue to venue for a first look at the studios, including Project Artaud, Art Explosion, Blue Studio, Workspace, Root Division, and more. Then the artists' studios are open on both Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13, from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Ground zero for the Mission Open Studios is Project Artaud, 499 Alabama Street, between 17th and Mariposa. For information, visit www.artaudsf.org/Spring2007.html. To see a map of the studios, go to www.missionarts.org/openstudios/mos.php.

Beauty That Never Fades

Now's the time to show your support to one of the many groups that make Noe Valley beautiful. San Francisco Beautiful is seeking nominations for its annual Beautification Awards. This year, judges are giving special consideration to projects that reflect the 2007 theme "Lasting Urban Beauty: The Challenge of Keeping San Francisco Beautiful."

Community groups, local businesses, neighborhood associations, and city departments are all eligible for nomination—as long as they've taken on projects that beautify San Francisco. Projects can include landscaping and planting, neighborhood conservation, historic preservation, public art, litter and graffiti reduction, enhancement of an area's sense of place, open space improvements, and sustainable architectural design.

Nominations are due on Wednesday, May 9. To nominate a group, you'll need to provide photographs or illustrations, preferably digital, and explain how the project beautifies San Francisco. For details and an application, call 421-2608 or e-mail sfb@sfbeautiful.org.

Help Clean Up the District

Do your part to keep Noe Valley and environs beautiful during the District 8 Clean Sweep on Saturday, May 12, from 9 a.m. until noon. Volunteers will join in

beautification projects including tree planting, litter pickup, and painting out graffiti in District 8 schools and parks.

The morning of cleaning will begin at three kickoff sites: Mission Playground at 19th and Linda streets, the Glen Park BART Station, and Rooftop Alternative School at 443 Burnett Street.

Program assistant Naomi Lee says she'll be happy to help coordinate a site in Noe Valley and will provide brooms, bags, and dustpans. For more information or to volunteer, call her at 552-9201, ext. 10, e-mail Naomi@sfcleancity.com, or visit www.sfcleancity.com.

Free Opera in Dolores Park

Pack a picnic and get to Dolores Park at 18th and Dolores streets early for a free performance by the San Francisco Opera. Four thousand listeners turned out for last year's event, and organizers think this year's show will draw even more.

The concert is scheduled for Sunday, May 27, at 2 p.m. The opera will perform with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, conducted by the company's music director and principal conductor, Donald Runnicles.

This isn't the only free performance the opera is giving this year—it's scheduled a program on Saturday, July 29, at Yerba Buena Gardens and another at Stern Grove on Sunday, Aug. 19.

The group will also perform as part of the LGBT Pride Celebration in June. No tickets are required. For more information about the San Francisco Opera, visit www.sfopera.com.

Kids Sink into Marsh Workshops

The Marsh Youth Theater, near Noe Valley at 1062 Valencia Street near 22nd Street, is offering a series of summer theater workshops for students in grades 1 through 9.

"Glitter and Razz" is a two-week workshop in which young performers create their own play and present it at the end of the session. It runs July 9 through 20, Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., with the final performance at 10:30 a.m. on July 21. The cost is \$600.

Theater lovers in grades 4 through 9 get to participate in "Dancing in the Streets," a three-week session that begins July 30 and ends Aug. 17, Mondays through Fridays from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The workshop explores hip-hop dance, rap, gospel, murals, and more. Students rotate through classes of drama, music, dance, costume, and set construction taught by professional artists. The \$800 session culminates in three public performances on Aug. 16 and 17.

Clowning around is entirely sanctioned at the "Circo! Circus and Clowning Workshop" for kids in grades 1 through 5. This session, scheduled from Monday, July 23, to Friday, July 27, from 1 to 4 p.m., introduces children to acrobatics, juggling, stilts, plate-spinning, and more. Participants will turn their favorite new skills into acts, which they will perform at 4 p.m. on July 27. The cost is \$175. To enroll, call the Marsh at 826-5750, ext. 3, or visit www.themarsh.org.

Korean Summer School Open to All

This summer, the Intercultural Institute of California is offering a Korean Language program designed to help students learn to speak Korean and understand Korean culture. Classes are offered at six levels, from beginning to advanced, during the evening. Participants may see a familiar face, since program coordinator Jee-Young Park lives near Noe Valley.

Instructors will guide students at each level through speaking, listening, reading, and writing Korean. Students may be eligible to take the classes for college credit, but anyone is welcome to learn Korean for personal enrichment.

Classes are held at the IIC, 1362 Post Street near Gough Street. The IIC charges a one-time registration fee of \$70 for new students, and one class costs an additional \$300. To register for the summer session, e-mail info@iic.edu or call 441-1844.

Let Your Pride Flag Fly

Come join the Flag Corps of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band for the beginning of the group's 30th anniversary marching season. The organization is seeking committed people at all skill levels to join the corps, which performs with the band in all of its marching performances and in some concerts. Members learn routines with tall flags and perform together. The rehearsal schedule hasn't been announced, but most practice sessions will be on weekends.

The Flag Corps, which was formed in the early 1980s, gave its first major performance at the opening ceremony of the first-ever Gay Games, held in San Francisco in 1982. The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band is the official band of the City of San Francisco and was the first openly LGBTIQ music organization in the world. To find out more about joining the Flag Corps, contact Ed Boeke at 415-412-0981 or edboeke@yahoo.com, or Kim Boyd at 510-773-7468 or kinboluv@aol.com.

Local 'Funny Girl' Gomez to Perform

The ninth annual "Funny Girlz: A Smorgasbord of Women Comedians" features Noe Valley resident and comedian Marga Gomez. She'll appear with Luenell (most recently featured in the film *Borat*), Sherry Glaser, Amy Boyd, and Lisa Geduldig at the Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Avenue, near McAllister Street on Saturday, May 19, at 8 p.m.

The evening is a benefit for GirlVen-

tures, a Bay Area non-profit that works to empower adolescent girls. Advance tickets are \$22.50 to \$35, or \$3 more at the door. They're available by calling City Box Office at 392-4400 or visiting www.cityboxoffice.com. To find out more about Funny Girlz, log on to www.kosher-comedy.com.

Honoring Soldiers Killed in Iraq

This year's San Francisco Memorial Day observances in the Presidio will honor two San Franciscans who were killed in Iraq in 2006: Cpl. Christopher D. Rose, age 21, and Pfc. Keith J. Moore, age 19. The parents of both soldiers will participate in the May 28 ceremony, and the event will be dedicated to all Americans whose lives have been lost in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At 10:30 a.m., the Army's 91st Division Pipes and Drums will lead a parade from the Presidio Parade Ground at the Main Post to the Presidio's San Francisco National Cemetery. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. and conclude at noon, and the Pleasanton Community Concert Band will provide music.

The observance will end with a performance of "Amazing Grace," taps, a 21-gun salute, and an Army California National Guard fly-over. For more information, contact County Veterans Service Officer Wallace Levin at 982-3417.



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Dean Bistline, 1921-2007

By Sally Smith

The sign read, "The Man in the Window says goodbye." And to neighbors along Church Street, that could mean only one thing: Dean Bistline, the man whose window signs had cheered and challenged passersby for 18 years, had died.

On April 15, after 85 years of living life to the fullest, Bistline's body finally failed. But his spirit will survive in the pithy quotes and thoughtful messages he left in his window, and in the many kindnesses he bestowed upon others.

"He touched hundreds of people, and had nothing but good to say about people, and he was always opening his window and reaching out to say hello," said Abed Amas of Fattoush Restaurant, next-door neighbor and a longtime friend. "I will miss him a lot."

Within hours of the notice appearing in the window, an impromptu memorial sprung up on his doorstep. "Flowers started appearing—orchids and lilies, and notes and cards," said Susan Bistline, Dean's wife of 31 years. "There was even a note from a little girl to whom Dean used to give tootsie rolls that said, 'Dear Dean, I hope your second life is great.'"

Dean's first life started in 1921, in the small town of Boone, Iowa. "He was the only child of an Iowa farmer," said Susan.

He spent his youth in Grand Junction, Iowa, and enlisted in the Coast Guard right after Pearl Harbor. After leaving the service at the end of the World War II, Dean went back to school, earning his college degree from Simpson College in Iowa and a master's in education from Columbia University in 1950. Along the way, he met and married his first wife, Clare, and together they raised five children while Dean pursued a career as a teacher and high school principal.

During the 1960s, he moved to San Diego, Calif. It was there that Dean "got involved in politics, working to help a Mexican-American candidate run for office," says Susan.

Bitten by the political bug, he went to Washington, D.C., in 1967, and stayed for the next 15 years, working as a policy analyst, editor, and speechwriter for the U.S. Department of Education and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). That's where he and Susan met and later married.

Four years after Dean's retirement in 1985, Dean and Susan moved to San Francisco, settling into the bottom flat of the house at 1357 Church Street owned by his daughter and son-in-law, Deanna and Ricardo Hernandez.

Soon, Dean began printing out his favorite quotes and placing them in his front



Photographer Najib Joe Hakim did this portrait of his friend Dean Bistline in 2005.

window. Some expressed his displeasure with the policies of Presidents Bush ("I love my country, I fear my government"). Others offered words of wisdom ("Leap, and the net will appear"). (To read more, go to the October 2005 issue at www.noevalleyvoice.com.)

Throughout his life, Dean kept his political idealism. "He was always a liberal, bordering on anti-authoritarian," Susan says. "But the essence of Dean was that he never made a judgment of anybody."

He volunteered at soup kitchens, visited the elderly, and helped those in need. Susan notes that he was handing out Godiva chocolates and splits of champagne to people on Church Street during the last months of his life. "He went out with his life spent, his money spent, and tons of good memories. What a way to go!"

In addition to his present and former wife, Dean Bistline is survived by five children, two stepsons, 10 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

To celebrate his life, family and friends will hold a memorial gathering at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sunday, May 27, from 3 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

The family asks that donations in his memory be made to Martin de Porres House of Hospitality, 225 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94103, or to the charity of one's choice.

Another way to remember Dean, Susan says, is simple. "Smile and be kind to a stranger." ■

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Abandoned Vehicles		415-553-9817
Aggressive Panhandling		415-553-0123
Illegal Parking	DPT Dispatch	415-553-1200
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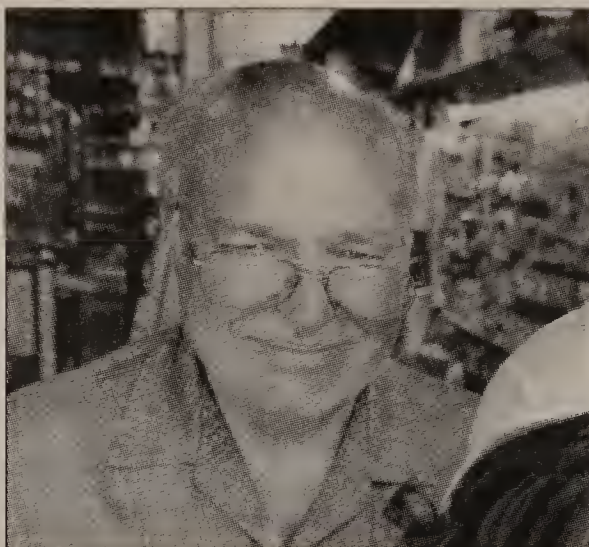
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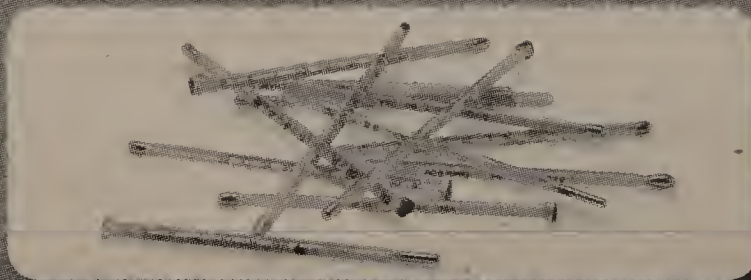
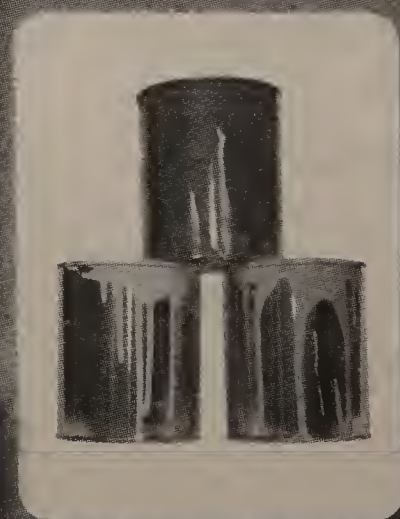
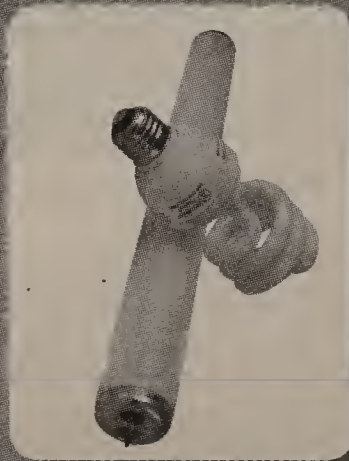


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A great guy and a good friend

Denny Giovannoli and the staff of Tuggey's Hardware
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Photo by Pamela Gerard



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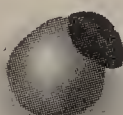
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Ron Peetz (right) worked at Tuggey's Hardware for more than 27 years. Photo by Pamela Gerard

Tuggey's Helpful Hardware Man Ron Peetz Dies

By Steve Steinberg

To Denny Giovannoli, owner of Tuggey's, the venerable hardware store on 24th Street, Ron Peetz was always more of a friend than an employee. After all, Giovannoli had known Peetz since Giovannoli was 10 years old.

So it was doubly sad for Giovannoli when Peetz suddenly died last month at the age of 56. He was "a real gentleman," said Giovannoli.

Peetz had worked at Tuggey's for more than 27 years. "He loved the store, and customers loved him," Giovannoli said. "The store was his life."

Giovannoli's father and Peetz' father had also been close friends. The younger Giovannoli remembers going out on the Peetz family boat when he was a kid.

Although his friend's death came as a shock to Giovannoli, Peetz had been in failing health for quite some time. He had had two hip replacements in recent years and seemed to be aging rapidly. "His aging had progressed more in the last year than in [the five years before that]," Giovannoli said.

Fellow Tuggey's worker Geary Holst said that Peetz never let his physical ailments get in the way of his responsibilities to the store and to customers. "He was a quiet, good guy all around, who never said anything bad about anybody," Holst said.

Andy Gomez, a former store employee, who had worked with Peetz for over 20 years, remembered him as "a great friend," who "would do anything for you." Gomez, who now works at a hardware store in Brisbane, added, "I'm going to miss him."

Dan Richman, a 21st Street contractor and regular customer at Tuggey's, de-

scribed Peetz as "an amazingly innocent and loving soul." Peetz knew the store's inventory like the back of his hand, Richman said, and could answer almost any hardware question you threw at him. "He was certainly an asset to the store, and many builders depended on his knowledge," Richman said.

According to Giovannoli, Peetz had failed to show up for work on the morning of April 9, something extremely unusual for the longtime employee.

Giovannoli called Peetz' home in Tiburon and spoke to his brother-in-law Mike, who had been staying with Peetz at his late mother's house, helping to sort through her possessions following her death last year.

The tearful brother-in-law told Giovannoli that Peetz had complained of feeling ill that morning and had said he needed to go to the hospital immediately. A short time later, the brother-in-law found Peetz lying down in another room. According to Mike, "Ron looked at him, smiled, closed his eyes, and died," Giovannoli said. The cause of death has not been determined.

Peetz grew up in Marin County, where his father, a veterinarian, owned an animal hospital. According to Giovannoli, Peetz graduated college, married, and had one daughter. His wife died many years ago, Giovannoli said. Their daughter, Terry, lives in Arizona.

Giovannoli said his customers had been "blown away" and deeply saddened by Peetz' death. Several, he said, attended Peetz' funeral at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Colma on April 16.

Besides his daughter, Peetz is survived by a brother, who lives in Illinois. ■

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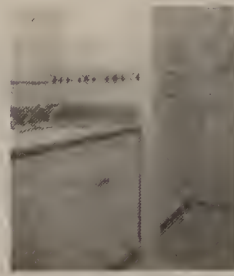
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MAY 2007

May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: Librarians from the Noe Valley Library host LAPSITS for babies and toddlers at 10:15 am, and preschool STORY TIME at 11 am. Bethany UMC, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393; www.sjpl.org.

May 1-31: OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Monday through Saturday, from 7 to 8 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

May 1-31: The NOE STROLLS "playgroup on wheels" departs Holey Bagel on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 am. 3872 24th St. www.noestrolls.com.

May 1-31: The Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, on weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-1030.

May 1-31: Chris Sequeira leads classes in TAI CHI. Mon. & Tues., 6 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. For location of 10:15 am Wed. & Fri. classes, call 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

May 1-31: The Kadampa Buddhist Temple offers weekly BUDDHIST MEDITATION classes. Tues., 7-8:30 pm. 3324 17th St. 503-1187.

May 2-20: Theatre Rhinoceros presents the world premiere of Nicky Silver's comedy *Past Perfect*. Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

May 2-30: The SF Library's BOOKMOBILE is open Mon. & Wed., 10:30 am-1 pm. 665 Elizabeth St. 557-4353.

May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: Preschool STORY TIME for ages 3-5 is 10:10 am. A BILINGUAL LAPSIT for babies and toddlers is at 11 am. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 355-2800; www.sjpl.org.

May 3-26: The run of Noe Valley resident Dan Hoyle's one-man performance "Tings Dey Happen" has been extended for the sixth time. Thurs. & Fri., 8 pm, May 6 at 7 pm, May 12 at 8 pm, and May 19 and 26 at 5 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 800-838-3006; www.themarsh.org.

May 3-June 14: The artists at CREATIVITY EXPLORED exhibit self-portraits. Reception May 3, 7-9 pm; exhibit Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm, and Sat., 1-6 pm. 3245 16th St. 863-2108; www.creativityexplored.org.

May 4-30: Noe Valley ARTIST Royce Vaughn's California landscapes and Chinese tangram-inspired "Afrigrams" will be on display in Building 200 of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. 8 am-noon. 4150 Clement St. 826-7419; www.californiacollectionseries.com.

May 4: 826 Valencia hosts a BOOK PARTY for Paul Madonna's *All Over Coffee*, City Lights Press' compilation of his *Chronicle* graphic comic strip. 7-10 pm. 312 Valencia St. 642-5905; www.paulmadonna.com.

May 4: Lick-Wilmerding High School performs a choral and orchestral CONCERT. 7:30 pm. Ehrer Theatre, 755 Ocean Avenue. 585-1725, ext. 287; www.lwhs.org.

May 4 & 5: City College Theatre students present "Aftermath of WAR: In Their Own Words," based on interviews, letters, and blogs of servicepeople in Iraq. 8 pm. Diego Rivera Theatre, CCSF, 50 Phelan Ave. 452-7274; www.ccsf.edu.

May 4, 11, 18 & 25: "Fantastic Fridays" PLAY TIME for ages 2 to 5 features outdoor exploration and indoor nature crafts. 10-11:30 am. Crissy Field Center, 603 Mason St. 561-7690; www.crissyfield.org/center.

May 4, 11, 18 & 25: Bird & Beckett Books hosts LIVE JAZZ. 5:30-8 pm., 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733; www.bird-beckett.com.

May 4-June 10: In "Multidimensional Warp" Ara Peterson debuts wall-mounted ARTWORK based on synthesized wave formations. Reception May 4, 6-8 pm; gallery hours, noon-5 pm Sundays, and by appointment. Ratio 3, 903 Guerrero St. 821-3371; www.ratio3.org.

May 5: MUSIC at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market includes performances by Tom Huber, 8:30-10 am, Goat Hill Morris Dancers, 10-10:30 am, and Failure to Disperse, 10:30 am-1 pm. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

May 5: The SF Bicycle Coalition and Garden for the Environment offer a free BICYCLE GARDEN TOUR and compost workshop. 9 am-noon. Meet at Ferry Building, Embarcadero & Market. 731-5627; www.garden-fortheenvironment.org.

May 5: Most Holy Redeemer's CASINO ROYALE fundraiser to benefit AIDS support groups features blackjack, craps, roulette, entertainment, and refreshments. 7 pm. Ellard Hall, 100 Diamond St. 863-1581; www.mhr.org.

May 5: "HONKY TONK Showdown: Cinco de Mayo Americana Style" features bands the Cowlicks, Rancho Deluxe, Good Luck Thrift Store Outlet, Sam Dead and the Good Sams, and Tom Armstrong. 9 pm. Café du Nord, 2170 Market St. 861-5016.

May 5 & 12: The Bicycle Coalition offers a class at the Main Library, "How to Bike Anywhere and Fix a Flat." 10 am-noon. Main Library, 100 Larkin St., Koret Auditorium. 431-BIKE; www.sjpl.org.

May 5-12: The Marsh Youth Theater presents "SIDDHARTHA, The Bright Path." May 5, 5 pm; May 6 & 12, 2 pm; May 11, 7:30 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 800-838-3006; www.themarsh.org.

May 5-27: Precita Eyes offers Mission Trail MURAL WALKS. Sat. & Sun, 11 am & 1:30 pm (Sat. 11 am, meet at 24th St. BART Station Plaza in Café Venice). Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, 2981 24th St. 285-2287; tours@precitaeyes.org.

May 5-27: Artist DAVID O. JOHNSON's solo show, "Loiter," features neon sculpture and drawing. Reception May 5, 6-9 pm. Little Tree Gallery, 3412 22nd St. 643.4929; www.littletreegallery.com.

May 6: St. Paul's BLOOD DRIVE runs from 8 am to 1 pm; look for the Bloodmobile on Church Street near 29th. 586-8911.

May 6: City Guides offers a free WALKING TOUR of Fairmount Hill, with views of the Poole-Bell Mansion and tales of Mary Ellen Pleasant. 10 am. Meet at Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 557-4266; www.sfguides.org.

May 6: The third annual "DOG DAY on the Bay," a two-hour champagne brunch sail on the Bay, benefits programs at the San Francisco SPCA; one dog per adult. Noon-2 pm. Pier 3 on the Embarcadero. www.sfsPCA.org.

May 6: If your home needs a dog, Rocket OOG RESCUE has some dogs who need homes. In front of Zephyr Real Estate from noon to 4 pm. 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

May 6: Healing Yoga Foundation sponsors an evening of VEDIC CHANTING led by T.K.V. Desikachar. 7-8:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. www.healingyoga.org.

May 7 & 21: The ODD MONDAYS series features three short films from the Spiritual Cinema Series (May 7) and communal living interviews from Sonoma County (May 21). No-host pizza, 5:30 p.m. at Noe Valley Pizza, 24th & Sanchez. RSVP (dinner) to jlsender@webtv.net. 7 pm, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 821-2090.

May 8: "A Night with the Stars" features performances by formerly homeless San Franciscans, to benefit COMMUNITY HOUSING Reception, 6 pm; talent show, 7:30 pm. Brava Theater, 2789 24th St. 929-2470, ext. 304; www.chp-sf.org.

May 8: Gary Norris discusses his new book *The Grayline*, a history of the lives of disabled Black Americans. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. www.mtbs.com.

May 9: Sixties folk group the NEW CHRISTY MINSTRELS performs a "Restore Hetch Hetchy" concert. 7:30 pm. San Francisco Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St. 209-536-9278; www.hetchhetchy.org.

May 9: "Rock for Revolution" with five bands, including the Gibbs and Tranny-saurus Sex, at a fundraiser to benefit the Freedom Socialist Newspaper. 8 pm. El Rio, 3158 Mission St. 864-1278; www.radicalwomen.com.

May 17: St. Luke's Hospital holds a VOL-UNTEER orientation the third Thursday of the month. 3-5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538; www.stlukes-sf.org.

May 10: Join the Neighborhood Parks Council and the Rec and Park Department at a FORUM on ways to raise funds for park improvements. 6-7:30 pm. Room 34, City Hall. RSVP 621-3260; cgood@sfnpc.org

May 10: The Friends of Noe Valley hosts a PANEL DISCUSSION, "Making Noe Valley Even Better," in conjunction with SF Better Streets, Livable City, Friends of the Urban Forest, and the DPW 7:30 pm, Oróubi & Co., 4128 24th St. E-mail rambooks@pacbell.net.

May 11-13: MISSION OPEN STUDIOS features diverse artwork by over 300 artists and craftspeople who work in nine studio buildings between Mission, Potrero, and 17th Street. Preview Fri., 7-11 pm; Sat. & Sun., 11 am-6 pm.; www.missionarts.org.

May 12: Entertainment at the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET includes music by Jude, 8:30-10:15 am; a talk on produce by author/chef Eric Gower, 10:15-10:45 am; and a performance by the Quake City Band, 10:45-1 pm. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

May 12: Join the District 8 COMMUNITY CLEAN TEAM to sweep streets and sidewalks, tend trees and plants, and paint out graffiti in three locations: Glen Park BART Station, Mission Playground at 19th and Linda, and Everett Middle School, 450 Church St.; supplies and lunch provided. 9 am-noon. 552-9201; www.sfdpw.org.

May 12: SFPUC is giving away free COM-POST 9 am to 2 pm. Oceanside Treatment Plant, 3500 Great Highway between Sloat & Skyline Blvd. 554-3289; www.sfsewers.org.

May 12: A GARAGE SALE sponsored by the SF Parents of Multiples Club offers clothes, toys, and furniture for newborns through 8-year-olds. 9 am-3 pm. SF County Fair Bldg., Golden Gate Park, Ninth Avenue & Lincoln Way. www.sfpom.org.

May 12: Fair Oaks Street residents hold a five-block garage sale, with barbecued and baked goods for sale, at the annual FAIR OAKS STREET FAIR to benefit Jamestown Community Center. 9 am-4 pm. Fair Oaks between 21st & 26th. (Rain date is May 19.)

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CALENDAR



May 12: Receive a free consultation at a LEGAL ADVICE and Referral Clinic. Sign up between 10:30 am and 12 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St., Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room. www.sfpl.org.

May 12: The Church Street Professionals' Used BOOK SALE benefits the Noe Valley Library renovation; books will be for sale 11 am to 4 pm at participating Church Street merchants from Elizabeth to 30th Street; bentonp@sprynet.com.

May 12: The Randall Museum hosts a MOTHER'S DAY art workshop to create cards and notepaper. 1-4 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org.

May 12: Insofar King introduces *My Bombay Kitchen*, a cookbook of Parsi recipes. 5 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080; www.covertocover.com.

May 12: Global Exchange and the National Lawyers Guild present an exhibit and live auction of PHOTODGRAPHS of Venezuela to benefit the Barrio Coche neighborhood of Caracas; attorney Eva Gollinger discusses her book *Bush vs. Chávez: Washington's War on Venezuela*. 7 pm. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. 255-7296.

May 12: The James Lick Middle School Band performs at "Blue Bear Live" youth music education benefit. 8 pm. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St. 885-0750; www.bluebearmusic.org.

May 12: Country Joe McDonald gives a tribute to WDDY GUTHRIE with songs and stories. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.noevalley-musicseries.com.

May 12 & 26: FDRBEADIN' offers a one-session Beginning Techniques class, focusing on earring and necklace construction. 10 am-12:30 pm. 1195 Church St. 641-1414.

May 13: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC's Gala Finale and silent auction features performances by composer/pianist Jake Haggie and singers Marnie Brekenridge, Cathy Cook, Nicole Folland, and Ann Moss. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648.5236; www.nvcm.org.

May 13: The Golden Gate MEN'S CHDRUS and the Peninsula Women's Chorus perform Stravinsky's Mass at Mission Dolores Basilica. 4 pm. 3321 16th St. 650-725-2787; www.ggmc.org; www.pwchorus.org.

May 13: Milti Wortman & Friends perform a multimedia extravaganza and reading to celebrate MOTHER'S DAY. 4:30 pm. Bird & Beckett Books, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733; www.bird-beckett.com.

May 14: The Noe Valley DEMOCRATIC CLUB hosts a panel discussion, "Wounded Iraq War Veterans' Treatment and Re-integration into Society," with Iraq veterans Romeo Horvath and Antoine Brooks. 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 641-5838.

May 14: Contestants at Small Press Distribution's celebrity SPELLING BEE include Mollie Katzen, Tobias Wolff, Matt Gonzalez, Michelle Tea, Susie Bright, Beth Lisick, and Daniel Mason. 7:30 pm. Crown Point Gallery, 20 Hawthorne St. www.spdbooks.org.

May 15: Learn how to present a case in SMALL CLAIMS COURT at a free workshop. 6 pm. New College of California School of Law, 50 Fell St. 241-1300.

May 16: MICHELLE TEA hosts the ongoing Radar Salon with authors Kauai Hart Hemmings and Michelle Richmond. 7-8:30 pm. Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616; www.sfpl.org.

May 16: The Mission Creek MUSIC FESTIVAL features King City, the Dodos, Alela Diane, Two Sheds, and the Halltowers. 8 pm. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia St. 552-7788; www.elbo.com.

May 16: Carla Zilber-Smith portrays 30 characters in "WEDDING SINGER Blues," a humorous look at "heartbreak, humiliation, and bad wedding songs." 8 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 800-838-3006; www.the-marsh.org.

May 16-27: The San Francisco ARTS FESTIVAL "The Truth in Knowing/Now: A Conversation Across the African Diaspora" features music, dance, theater, film, and exhibitions citywide. www.sfiat.org.

May 17: BIKE TO WORK Day, encouraged and sponsored by the SF Bicycle Coalition, culminates in a "Bike Away From Work" party from 5 to 9 pm, at the Rickshaw Stop, 155 Fell Street. 431-BIKE.

May 17-20: SOTA students present their 25th annual DANCE CONCERT. Thurs.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2 pm. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center. 345-7575; www.fortmason.org/boxoffice; www.sfsota.org.

May 18: ENDANGERED SPECIES Day at the SF Zoo stresses the importance of wildlife conservation. 10 am-2 pm. Sloat Blvd. at the Great Highway. www.sfzoo.org.

May 18: STUDENT FILMS of every genre will be screened at San Francisco State University's 27th annual film finals. 7 pm. McKenna Theatre, Creative Arts Bldg., 1600 Holloway Ave. www.cinema.sfsu.edu.

May 18: CHANTICLEER performs the West Coast premiere of "And on Earth, Peace: A Chanticleer Mass." 8 pm. Grace Cathedral, 1051 Taylor St. 252-8589; www.chanticleer.org.

May 19: The Noe Valley Farmers' Market offers MUSIC by Diamond Moddie from 8:30 to 10:30 am, and Misner & Smith from 10:30 am to 1 pm. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

May 19: Bargains and treasures will fly out the door at a GARAGE SALE benefiting the Elder Women's League's educational programs. 10 am-2 pm. 639 Elizabeth St. 989-4422; www.owlst.org.

May 19: Mission Library's annual DPEN HDUSE features Mexican folk dance by Grupo Folklorico de South San Francisco at noon, hip-hop theater and spoken word by Colored Ink at 1 pm, and Mexican Trova by singer Alfredo Gomez at 2 pm. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 355-2800; www.sfpl.org.

May 19: The tree FAMILY FIELD TRIP at the Botanical Garden includes exploring, activities, and crafts. 1-4 pm. Golden Gate Park, Ninth Avenue & Lincoln Way. 661-1316; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

May 19 Noe Valley comic MARGO GOMEZ performs in the ninth annual "Funny Girlz: A Smorgasbord of Women Comedians," a benefit for GirlVentures. 8 pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. 522-3737; <http://www.koshercomedy.com>.

May 19 & 26: Take a free tour of the Chinese SHRIMP BOAT *Grace Quan*. 1 pm. Hyde Street Pier. 447-5000; www.nps.gov/safr.

May 22: Coeditors Katherine V. Forrest and Jim Van Buskirk introduce *Love, CASTRO STREET*, an anthology of personal essays. 6-7:30 pm. Main Library, Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400; www.sfpl.org.

May 22: Celebrate ASIAN/PACIFIC-AMERICAN Heritage Month with Helen Zia, Justin Chin, Madeleine Lin, Mickel Paris, and Rafaelito Sy. 7:30 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616; www.sfpl.org.

May 22 & 29: The Eureka Valley Library hosts an afternoon STORY TIME for preschoolers at 3:30 pm, and an infant/toddler LAPSIT at 10:30 am. 3555 16th St. 355-5616; www.sfpl.org.

May 23: The Excelsior Library Arts and Culture Salon hosts an evening of poetry and conversation with DIANE DI PRIMA. 7-8:30 pm. 4400 Mission St. 337-4735; www.sfpl.org.

May 26: Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET hosts music by Jude from 8:30 to 10:30 am, and Misner & Smith, from 10:30 am to 1 pm. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

May 26: The Randall Museum sponsors a volunteer WORK PARTY for habitat restoration at Corona Heights Park. 10 am. Meet at Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600, ext. 16; www.randallmuseum.org.

May 26 & 27: The 29th annual CARNAVAL SAN FRANCISCO showcases Latin American and Caribbean music, food, and dance; festival Sat. and Sun. on Harrison between 16th and 24th; parade Sun., 10 am, begins at 24th and Bryant. 920-0125; www.carnaval.com.

May 27: The San Francisco OPERA performs a free concert in Dolores Park at 2 pm. Olores & 18th; www.sfopera.com.

May 29: Registration for new students at St. James Elementary School is 3 to 6 pm. 321 Fair Oaks St. For a registration packet, call 647-8972; www.saintjamessf.org.

May 29 & 30: 826 Valencia offers a two-part COMIC-BOOK WRITING workshop led by Todd Pound and Jenny Traig. 6-7:30 pm. 826 Valencia St. 642-5905.

May 31-June 25: JESSICA HAGEDORN debuts her new play *Fe in the Desert*. Thurs.-Sun., 8 pm. Intersection, 446 Valencia St. 626-2787; www.theintersection.org.

June 3: Day Street between Sanchez and Church will be closed to traffic for a BLDCK PARTY with food and entertainment. Noon-4 pm. www.noevalleyrecenter.com.

June 5: The 2007 Noe Valley GARDEN TOUR features tours of local back yards. 10 am-3 pm. For info, e-mail rambooks@pacbell.net.

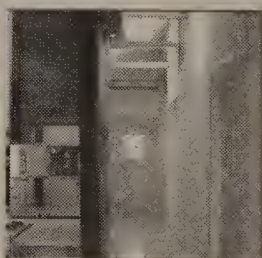
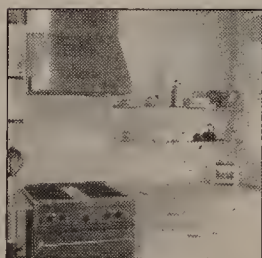
June 5: The SPCA offers a free drop-in PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama St. 554-3050.

JUNE BUG

The June 2007 issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* will arrive in the neighborhood on Friday, June 1. The deadline for June calendar items is May 15, but we might give you a couple days' leeway this month. E-mail your items to calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. We'd love it if you would put the when, what, and where at the top of the e-mail, and include a phone. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Noe Valley events take priority, but we try to squeeze in as many other items as possible.

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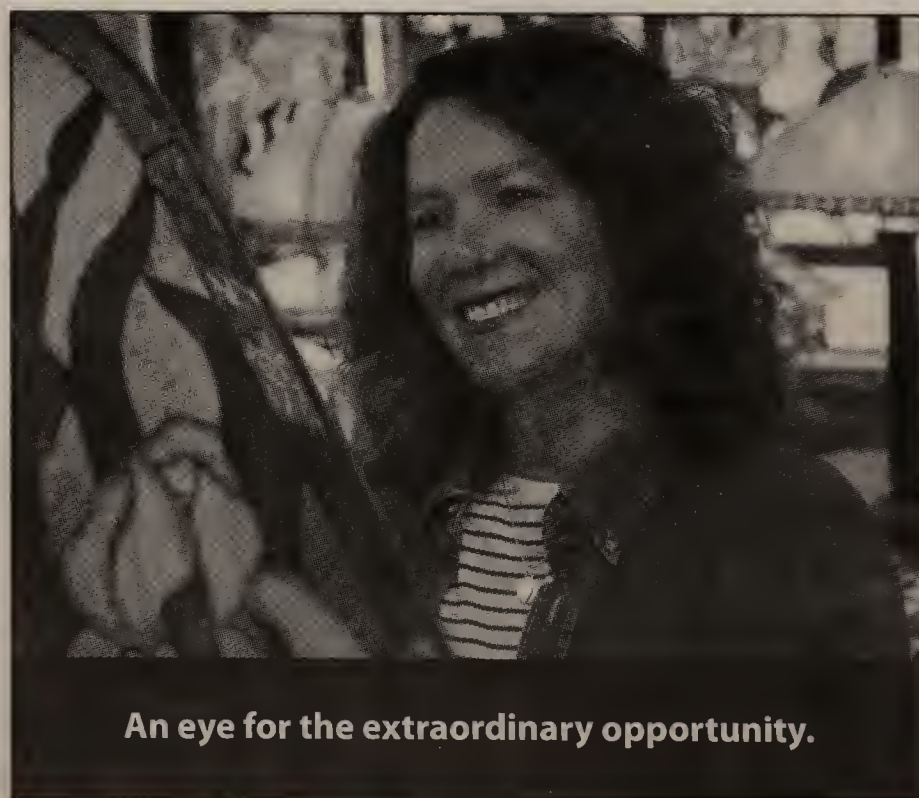
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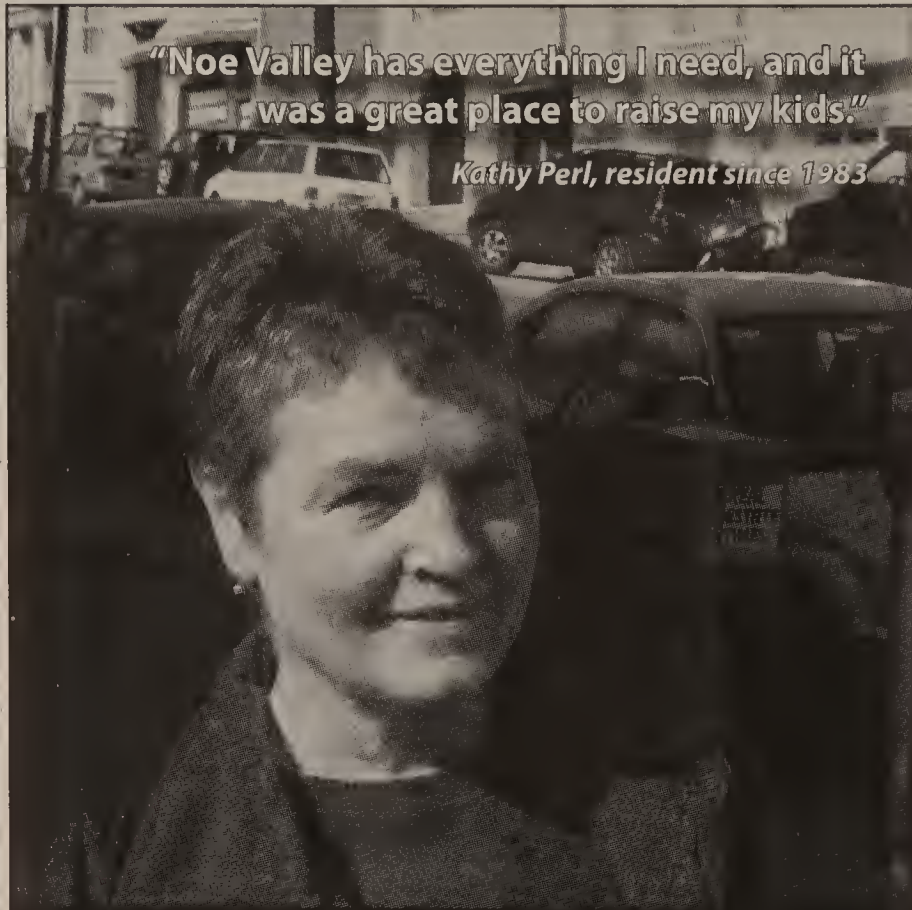


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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new shops and businesses in the neighborhood. This month, we fill you in on two well-known and energetic small businesses that have moved into prime storefronts along 24th Street.

HIGH CLASS NAILS

3953 24th Street between Sanchez and Noe streets
415-550-7948

Tiffany Truong knows the importance of strong client relationships. After operating the High Class Nails location on 24th Street between Mylene's and Pasta Pomodoro for over 10 years, Truong and her family, who own the business, were more than ready to expand into a larger space.

But it wasn't until longtime client Thomas Roberts told Truong about a new store space on 24th Street that the move became a reality.

"Without him, we would not have gotten this place. I didn't know about [it]," Truong says.

The new storefront, which Truong estimates offers double the square footage of the old one, sits between Fresca Restaurant and Noe Knit and is on the ground floor of the shiny modern Victo-



Tiffany Truong's High Class Nails has moved into a larger space on 24th Street, thanks to a tip from a client.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

rian that replaced the old Lunny House in 2005. Truong says that the new location, despite being in the same block as the long-vacant Real Food Company, has brought her more foot traffic.

"I feel more in the center. Every day, I get some new clients," says Truong, who lives in the Sunset District.

With more space, Truong has been able to outfit the salon with two brand-new massage chairs, as well as new carpet and fresh paint on the walls.

Manicures and pedicures cost \$7 and \$12, respectively, or \$17 when clients have both during the same salon visit. Another draw (yes, pun intended)? Truong and her team are known for their skills painting flowers and other designs on nails. They're \$1 to \$2 each, depending on the number of designs you order.

Although the nail salon has been open for about two months, there is still work to be done. In the coming months, Truong plans to upgrade the lighting and do finishing touches on the walls and ceiling. The salon may also add waxing services in the future.

One thing that's certain not to change is Truong's main objective each day.

"I like to make my clients pretty, and I like to take good care of them," she says.

High Class Nails is open every day: Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

—Lorraine Sanders

NAVARRETE'S BLACK BELT ACADEMY

1201 Church Street at 24th Street
415-285-5425
www.atastf.com

Who knew, when you used to browse the movies at First Choice Video at the corner of Church and 24th streets, that there was enough space over your head for a viewing gallery? You couldn't tell because of a false ceiling.

One of the first things new tenant Fernando Navarrete, founder of Navarrete's Black Belt Academy, did after he signed a lease in January was remove the dropped ceiling. Two and a half months later, parents were sitting tall in comfortably padded seats in the gallery, watching their youngsters do Taekwondo kicks on wall-to-wall red-and-blue rubber mats.

Taekwondo is a form of martial arts that originated in Korea and was introduced to the United States in the mid-1950s, shortly after the Korean War. Literally translated, it means "the way of the hand and the foot." The discipline focuses on mental as well as physical training,



Fernando Navarrete has plenty of room to hold a kick-a-thon in his Black Belt Academy, now located on the corner of 24th and Church. Photo by Paula Whitehead

and emphasizes values such as loyalty, respect, and self-control. Navarrete discovered Taekwondo about 25 years ago.

"I was in a car accident, and I needed to do some exercise," Navarrete recalls. "A friend was joining a gym that had martial arts. I joined with him and got hooked. It's really fun, and you get in really good shape really quickly." Taekwondo is characterized by fast kicks utilizing powerful leg muscles and is said to be excellent training for women and children who may face larger and stronger opponents.

The Church Street location is new for Navarrete's academy, but the school has been active in the neighborhood for 20 years, in the Bethany United Methodist Church gymnasium.

"We actually outgrew the space," Navarrete says. "We had so many students, we needed a full time school." So, when he got wind of the video's store's

impending closing, he applied to be the next tenant.

"There were actually lots and lots people who applied for the space," he notes.

The fact that his is a proven, viable business helped his cause. "We also have an extremely good reputation as far as martial arts schools go and what we do for the community, and the landlord liked that," Navarrete says. About a year ago, the academy was honored by the Board of Supervisors for the work it had done with families. The school also has received a commendation letter from the mayor's office.

One of the school's charity events raised \$30,000 in one afternoon three years ago for the San Francisco Leukemia Society. "We were excited, we worked very hard," Navarrete said. "We did a kick-a-thon, and basically students got sponsors for however many kicks they could do in five minutes."

The academy holds classes for all ages, from 3-year-old preschoolers to 70-year-old retirees. They can check their form in the mirrors hung a foot away from the wall. "They are back-lit and look like they're floating, so they're very striking," Navarrete says.

Several teachers teach each class, breaking students into small groups of comparable ability.

"Students all get a lot of one-to-one. They work on kicks and punches, and the more important thing is that we have themes. The theme we're working on now is honesty—what it looks like here, at home, and at school," he adds.

The school is open Monday through Friday, 4 to 9 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A pro shop is on site, too. So students can buy uniforms, headgear, boots, gloves, and other related items, in addition to toys and snacks.

—Laura McHale Holland



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Reviews

OSCAR NOMINEES RECENTLY OUT ON DVD: *Children of Men*, *Volver*, *Notes on a Scandal*, *Little Children*
OSCAR WINNERS RECENTLY OUT ON DVD: *Happy Feet*, *Last King of Scotland* (Best Actor) *The Queen* (Best Actress)

Other Award winning titles coming soon or recently out: *Dreamgirls*, *Pan's Labyrinth*, *Letters from Iwo Jima*, *Death of a President*, *Becket* (1964, Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton, first time on DVD), *The Painted Veil*, *Deliver Us From Evil*

Independent films coming soon and eagerly anticipated:

Fay Grim (by Hal Hartley, continuing the adventures of Henry Fool)
The Hawk is Dying (with Paul Giamatti, nominated for Grand Jury at 2006 Sundance) *Who the #\$% is Jackson Pollack* (Documentary about a feisty truck driver buying a \$5 painting, maybe a Jackson Pollack, and trying to sell it for \$50 Million)

Recommended Titles:

We love short films, but too often they get the short shrift. Not here! We've got some great short films, including *nominees and winners from the Oscars in both 2005 and 2006*, live action and animated. Also, the Quay brothers, creators of surreal puppet-based stop motion animation, have a collection of 13 shorts coming soon, called *Phantom Museums*. Any of these collections is pretty much a can't miss for all fans of animation or short form cinema.

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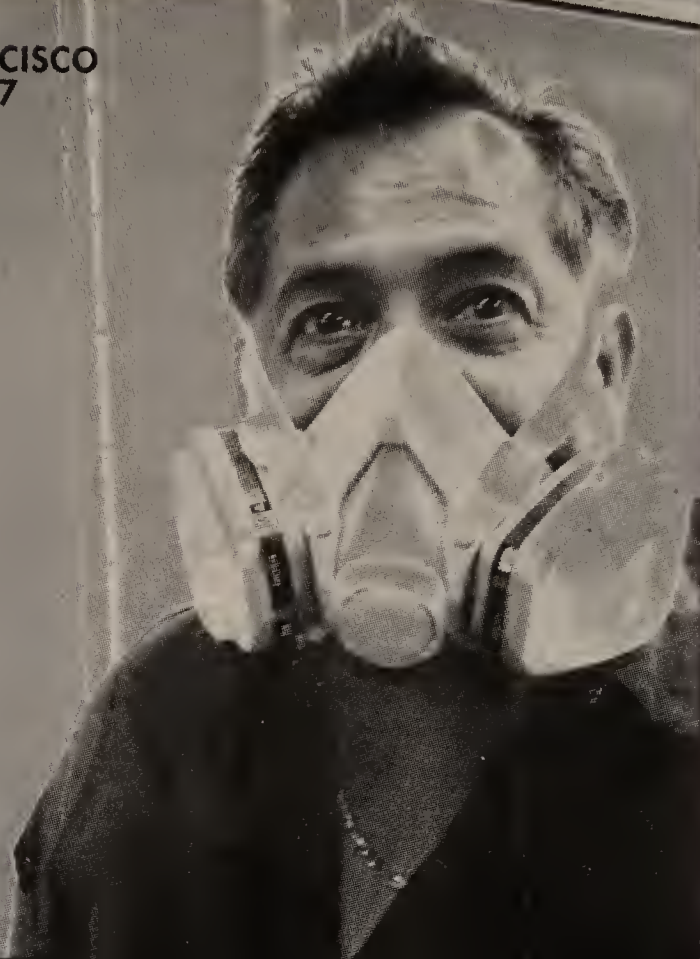
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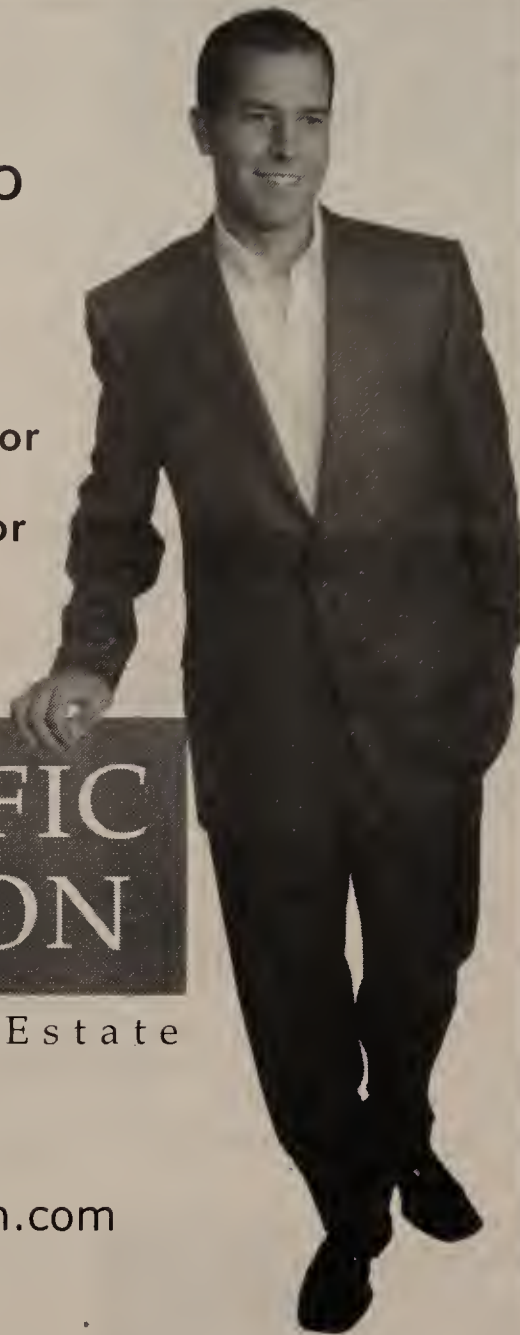
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Photo of Paula, canine customer Boris, and Celia by Pamela Gerard

May Reader Roundup

Want to join your neighbors and be featured on this page? It's easy. Just mail your photos and caption info to: *Noe Valley Voice*, Attn: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or e-mail them to editor@noevalleyvoice.com.



Tim Trickett-Robles (left) and **Rafael Trickett-Robles** had a giant Moai leaning over their shoulders on Easter Island while they read the news from back home.

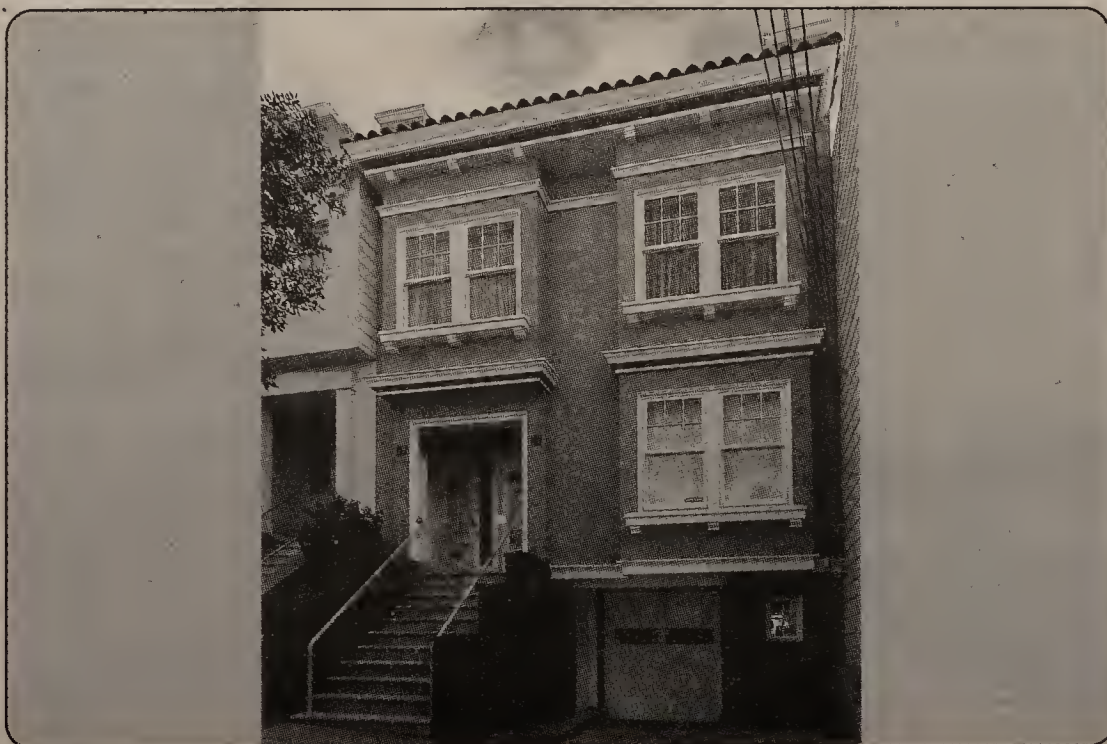


Alessandro Heines insisted on carrying his copy of the *Noe Valley Voice* on all his outings in Thailand during March of last year.

Photo by Paola Heines



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Noe Valley

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Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

Stepping Out With My Garland

Editor's Note: Florence Holub wrote this paean to the stairways near her home on 21st Street 11 years ago (for the May 1996 Noe Valley Voice). At the time, she counted 369 steps while scaling the hills of Dolores Heights. The steps are still there, but some of the trees and blooms have changed. Take a walk and see for yourself.

About 10 years ago at a Sunday street fair on 24th Street, I could not resist buying a lovely handmade garland of dried flowers, made to be worn over the forehead with ribbons streaming down the back.

But over the last decade, I have not once had occasion to wear it—not until this year on the first day of spring, when we went to a celebration in honor of the day.

It was held in the home of Marianne Hinckle (writer Warren Hinckle's talented sister), who resided in a charming cottage clinging to the northeast slope of Telegraph Hill. Her address was on the Filbert Steps, a steep section of Filbert Street that has lush greenery and wooden steps instead of the usual cement pavement.

To get to the cottage, we had to park our car below on Sansome Street and then walk up a stairway with 154 steps. (I got this number from a little girl at the party who had counted the steps as she climbed them!)

All through the house, tables were decked with delicious finger food, amid bouquets of daffodils, lilies, and every other kind of spring flower we see popping up this time of year.

Marianne is a graphic designer of excellence, so most of the guests were either associated with publishing or printing, or were her friends and neighbors. My man Leo and I were invited to the party because of our connection with Marianne's printer in Noe Valley, who just happens to be our son Eric. (Eric was unable to attend because he was on vacation in England.)

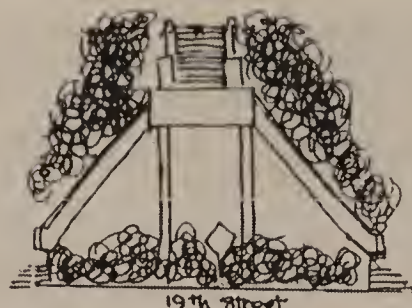
We were delighted to see the smiling face of Sally Smith, the editor of this fine publication, who was in the company of Neal Elkin, the *Noe Valley Voice's* typesetter (and spiritual mentor). But Sally soon had to dash off to the *Voice* office, where she and Karol Barske were putting the finishing touches on the April Fool's issue.

Later, we saw another familiar face, belonging to Douglas Pinto, a doctor friend of a doctor friend of ours. Not knowing where we lived, he asked if we were neighbors of Marianne.

We explained that we lived in Dolores Heights [also known as the Sanchez Hill], but he did not seem to have the faintest idea of where that was, so I described our hill, which is rimmed with cement walls and staircases but has very few through streets.

That rang a bell for Dr. Pinto, for he remembered an occasion many years earlier when he was rushing through our neighborhood in response to a call.

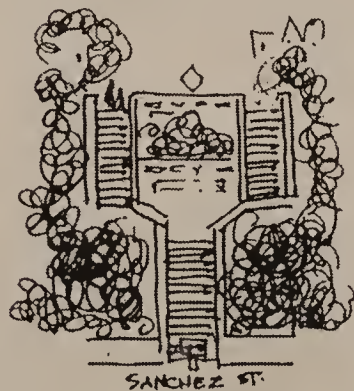
He drove up our hill easily enough, he said, but then became entrapped within what seemed like a maze of concrete barriers. He grew more and more desperate as every corner led to a dead-



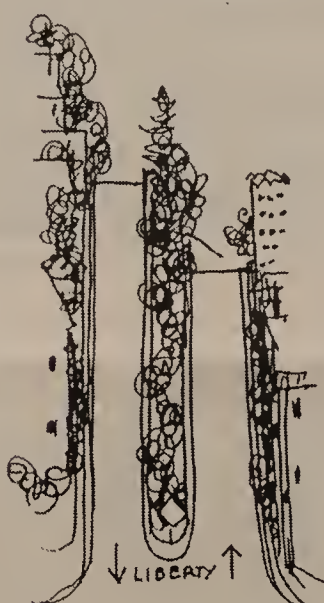
96 steps at Sanchez and 19th



33 steps at Cumberland and Sanchez



62 steps at Sanchez and 20th



Liberty between Church and Sanchez



33 steps at Noe and Cumberland



The ramp from Noe to 20th



85 steps at Noe and Liberty



60 steps at Liberty and Sanchez

THE STAIRWAY WALKS OF DOLORES HEIGHTS

end or a retaining wall. He did finally escape, but vowed never to venture that way again. "Yes, I know the place well!" he concluded emphatically.

For those readers not familiar with our area, perhaps I can take you on a short walk around the three square blocks atop Dolores Heights between Liberty and 19th streets. We can start at the handsome and historically important Tudor mansion at the northeast corner of 21st and Sanchez streets, once the home of Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph.

Going north, we come to a brown shingled house at 777 Sanchez Street, once the home of Bud Fisher, one of the richest and most popular comic strip artists in America between 1907 and 1954. He lived most of his life in this house, while working for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. In 1921, at the height of his career, he earned \$4,600 per week—a fortune at that time!—from his syndicated comic strip, "Mutt and Jeff."

Bud Fisher died in 1954, shortly before we moved to 21st Street, but I do remember his stately widow, who looked a lot like Margaret Dumont, the actress who played the role of Groucho's overrefined lady friend in the Marx Brothers movies.

Continuing down Sanchez, we arrive at the foot of a staircase leading to Liberty Street. It is divided by a planted area, and its presence emphasizes the fact that one half of Liberty Street towers high above the other. Whenever I look at it, I am reminded of Mutt and Jeff.

From here, we head downhill to Church Street, to return via the lower part of Liberty Street, which is divided by a landscaped median strip. At about mid-block we come to a lavish garden, tended by the loving hands of Liberty Street resident Louise Meyer, whose blooming camellias, azaleas, pansies,

and begonias cheerfully celebrate the season with the entire color spectrum.

Another Liberty Street resident, Harold Levy, planted three trees on this strip. One, a "dawn" redwood, lived 80 million years ago, and was thought to be extinct until it was discovered still growing in a remote area of China by a professor from U.C. Berkeley in 1936. Mr. Levy planted this redwood seedling in 1980, and it has grown to be about 20 feet high.

Unlike the other two darker-hued trees Mr. Levy planted—a Douglas fir and a coast redwood—the dawn redwood is deciduous (it sheds), so these days it is adorned with new light-green leaves.

At the end of the block, stroll around the corner and back to Sanchez Street. This walk serves to illustrate the ingenious solutions that city engineers came up with in 1916, when residents protested an attempt to impose San Francisco's typical gridiron street plan upon their hilly area.

Every homeowner wanted his street to be at the same level as his house, which would have been impossible because a lot of the early homes were built at different elevations. The engineers appeased people by creating several two-tiered streets, many dead-ends, at least six staircases, and many retaining walls.

All of these obstructions to traffic, combined with the steepness of our hill (which separates Noe and Eureka valleys), have served to keep our area fairly undiscovered and untraveled, except by the hardest of hikers. But it is well worth the climb to see the abundant landscaping, the variety of architectural styles, and especially the breathtaking views of our beautiful city.

Many of the guests at Marianne's vernal equinox party—high atop that other hill—remarked upon my apropos headgear, which pleased me, as I almost didn't wear it. When I took the garland out of the plastic bag, some of the flowers dropped off. Upon closer inspection I saw that they were barely fastened with a narrow wrapping of tissue paper!

Not to be discouraged by such a minor flaw, I went to the kitchen and found one of the wire bands that lettuce comes bound in. Then I stripped off the tissue paper and began wrapping the wire through and around the dried posies until I got them fastened back in place. Fortunately, no one at the party seemed to notice that my headdress was on the verge of falling apart.

The garland was still in place when we returned home, so I put it back in the plastic bag, where it shall remain until we are invited to another joyous celebration heralding the first day of spring.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY FLORENCE HOLUB

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The St. Paul's Youth Choir performed at Disneyland's Magic Music Days during school spring break in April. The choir is made up of students from third to eighth grade and is directed by Linda Flaviani.

Photo courtesy of Michele Bulen

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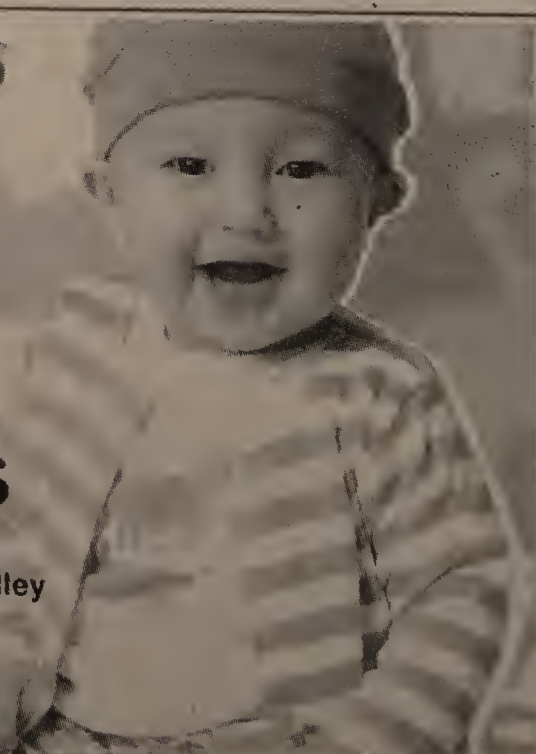


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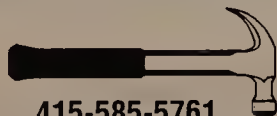
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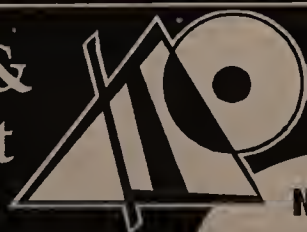
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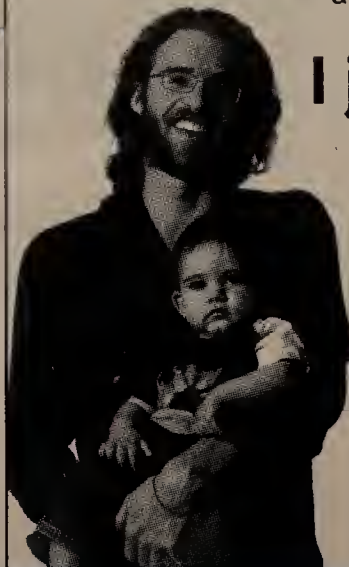


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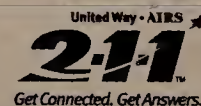
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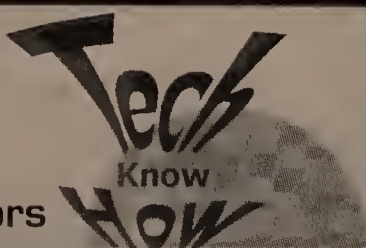


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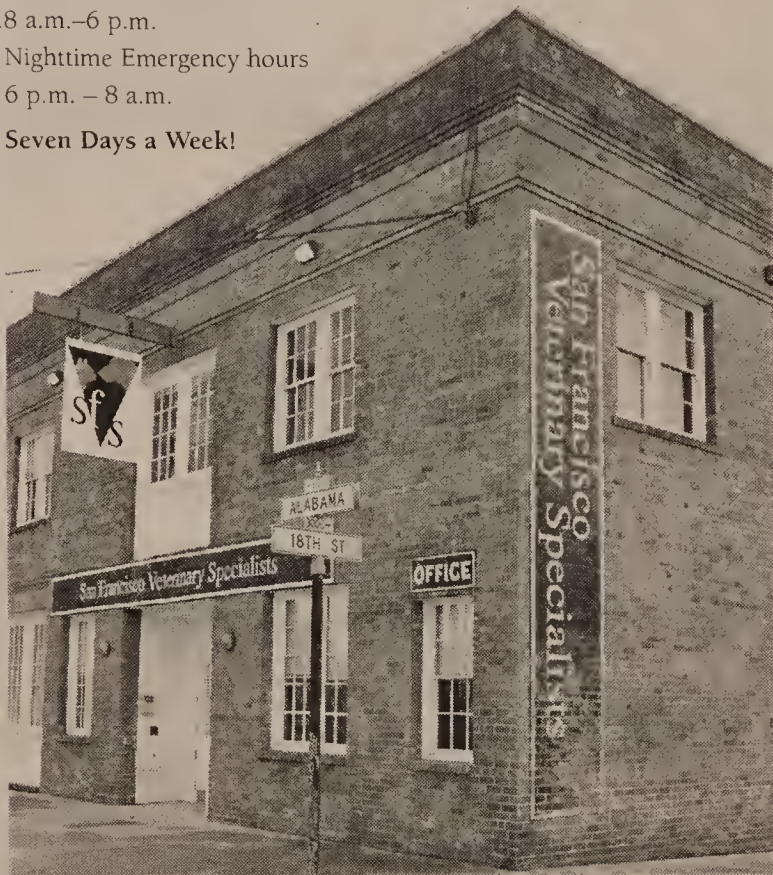
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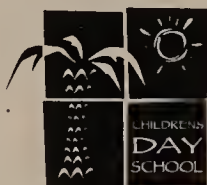




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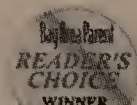
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On the Greenest Day. The Ryan kids took their scooters to 24th Street this last St. Patrick's Day. From left, they are Ian, Quinn, and Aidan.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

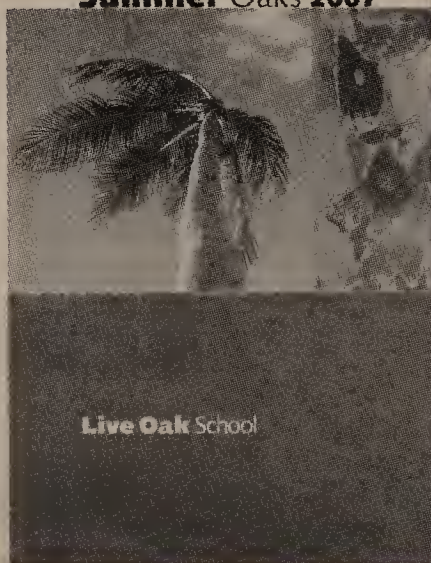
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Asian Food Court. These eighth grade girls at St. Philip School enjoyed egg rolls and other treats as part of the school's celebration of diversity in February. Left to right, they are Dominique Pepin, Lizzie Dwyer, Claire Cassidy, Veronica Varela, and Desiree Clavier.

Photo by Paula Whitehead

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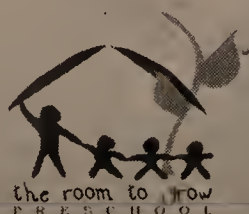
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SCHOOL REPORT

Here's the latest from volunteers and parents at Fairmount Elementary, James Lick Middle, and Alvarado Elementary School.

FAIRMOUNT

Come One, Come All to FiestaVal

Noe Valleyans are invited to FiestaVal, Fairmount's fifth annual free celebration of the arts and carnival, taking place from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, at the school, at Randall and Chenery. The gathering is a time for the school community to get together for a year-end celebration while raising funds to enrich and support our students' academic learning. Multicultural fare prepared by parents, including incredible homemade papusas, adds to the festivity while celebrating the school's diversity.

Last year, FiestaVal raised \$30,000, which helped pay for the P.E. program, library assistants, Ballet Folklórico, science, drama, choir, and dance programs.

FiestaVal grew out of the annual Cinco de Mayo piñata auction and competition. Families and classrooms made fantastic piñatas that were auctioned off to the highest bidder. These class projects continue to be a highlight of the live auction. There is also a silent auction featuring dozens of items, goods, and services donated by Noe Valley merchants and restaurants.

FiestaVal is a venue for kids to perform and for current and prospective parents and students to see firsthand some student activities provided by the PTA. Student performances on the main stage will include Ballet Folklórico, student guitarists, the fantastic Fairmount Falcons Choir, and our ballroom dance classes.

The carnival, featuring games of chance and skill, allows for fun and prizes. GLO, the after-school program, will feature a Mexican bingo game and a cakewalk in the cafeteria. Free arts and crafts activities as well as face painting are among kids' favorites.

Come join in the Saturday afternoon fun and see our dynamic school community in action.

Thanks in advance to all the Noe Valley businesses, merchants, and restaurants that contributed to our silent auction.

Kids Enjoy Health and Safety Week

During the third week in April, Growth and Learning Opportunities (GLO), Fairmount's after-school organization, presented a week of health and safety presentations with activities for the kids.

On Monday, the fifth-graders taught the other grades group games emphasizing physical fitness and team-building. On Tuesday, the kids chose from several activities such as learning how to dissect a cow's eye. Parent Andy Kuster gave a first-aid course to our fourth- and fifth-graders, which they put to good use on Wednesday, when there was a mock major disaster drill.

Each grade had a job to do, from setting up a triage area for all to gather in, to finding clean/safe drinking water and food, to working out a communications protocol.

"The kids were disappointed—they thought they were actually going to get to call all the parents on the emergency cards!" said GLO director Geri Ehle. "Our kindergartners were the victims, and I never saw a group get so into their roles—they were too good. Our fourth- and fifth-graders, armed with bandages,

were quick to the rescue treating burns, bleeding, and broken bones. They were amazed that they actually could make a sling with a triangle piece of fabric!"

On Thursday, each class participated in making healthy faces and figures with celery, apples, oranges, cream cheese, dried fruit, and strawberries.

The week ended with visitors and activities from the S.F. Sheriff's Department's canine unit, the Health Department, and other community organizations.

One mother of a first-grader reported, "My kid, Evan, has been asking questions about lead poisoning all weekend following the health and safety week presentation on Friday," she said. "He is not a paranoid kid, but it really raised his awareness of the issue and we have had some good science/chemistry discussions about the periodic table and where lead comes from. Thanks, GLO, for making that dialogue possible."

—Tom Ruiz

JAMES LICK

'Tell Me More, Tell Me More...'

Rehearsals continue for the cast of 30 James Lick sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders who will perform in the upcoming musical production of *Grease*, while students in the after-school arts program are creating sets and props for the performances.

Drama instructor Jake Stookey also acknowledges the contributions of "an incredible team of faculty, staff, and parents" for their support.

Daytime assemblies will be held on Thursday, May 31, for our students; evening performances begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 1, and Saturday, June 2. We look forward to seeing you at one of these performances. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Spoken Word Showcase

We've reserved the Koret Auditorium at the San Francisco Main Library for our third annual Spring Showcase on Wednesday, May 23. Our students will present poetry, drama, and monologues, with support from the Marsh Theater, the Screen Actors Guild, 826 Valencia, and our own Beyond the Bell after-school program. Join us from 5 to 7:30 p.m. for this free event.

Carnaval 2007

On Saturday, May 26, James Lick families will be at school, building our float and rehearsing dancing and drumming performances for this year's Carnaval Parade on Sunday, May 27. Following the festivities, they'll return to school for an end-of-the-year potluck picnic and barbecue.

Eighth-Grade Highlights

As a farewell gift to James Lick, our eighth-grade students are creating an original ceramic mural for the school's new Peace Garden. Unveiling will occur

during the Peace Garden dedication at our 75th Anniversary Celebration on May 12.

Spring field trips will take the eighth-graders to San Francisco State University, de Young Museum, Golden Gate National Wildlife Refuge, and the Exploratorium. Teacher Andrew Grimstad's class will travel to Muir Woods.

Ice Cream and Baseball

Our Most Improved and Honor Roll students were treated to ice cream socials in April. Each grade had its own party, and their proud parents were on hand to help scoop up the frosty delights.

Our choir was invited to join students from other San Francisco schools to sing the national anthem at a recent Giants game. (Could you hear them?)

Focus on School Climate

James Lick parents will meet with educator Enid Lee on Wednesday, May 9, from 5 to 7 p.m., for an open-ended conversation about school climate, educational equity, anti-racism, and other topics of special interest to James Lick families. Lee is co-editor of *Beyond Heroes and Holidays: A Practical Guide to K-12 Anti-Racist, Multicultural Education, and Staff Development*.

Meanwhile, you can find us on the web: www.jameslickpta.org.

—Sue Cattoche

ALVARADO

It's Spring Carnival Time

Mark your calendars! Alvarado's infamous Spring Carnival will take place on May 19. Enjoy the lively atmosphere, vibrant music, delicious Latin American homemade dishes, and all the fun. You'll have a chance to win prizes and gift certificates donated by local restaurants and retailers.

The kids are guaranteed to have a great time running around on the playground, participating in all the carnival games and events, winning prizes, and watching the performances. (It is rumored there will be

a punk makeover booth!) The fiesta begins at 11 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. It's a wonderful day for the entire family. Don't miss it!

Dance to the Boogie

Our fourth annual Boogie Nights event will be held on Friday night, June 1, at 11 Pirata Restaurant and Bar at the corner of Utah and 16th streets. This will be our last party before the end of the school year, so we'll be putting on our dancing shoes! There will also be a wine raffle (this year, and each Boogie Night attendee is asked to contribute a bottle of wine to the prize. The holder of the winning raffle ticket will bring home an instant wine cellar! This event is for the adult members of the Alvarado School community. Please contact the school for additional information.

Rummage Sale Packed Them In

Our annual Rummage Sale in April was an enormous success. A special thank you to everyone who organized the event and helped to sell an entire cafeteria full of amazing clothes, furniture, toys, books, and everything else one can imagine. Shoppers were able to find just what they were looking for at a great price. All rummage sale proceeds benefit our children through the many programs sponsored by the PTA.

Thanks again, everyone!

Every Voice Counts

Plans for the 2007–08 school year are already under way at Alvarado. The entire community has worked hard to raise money in order to supplement the school budget and fund all the extracurricular activities for the coming year. Parents attending a May 1 PTA meeting will provide input on how to spend the money they've helped raise over the past year.

Elections for next year's PTA officers will be held during the final PTA meeting of the year on Tuesday, June 5, at 6 p.m. As with all PTA meetings at Alvarado, both dinner and childcare are provided, and everyone is welcome!

—Dan Willhite

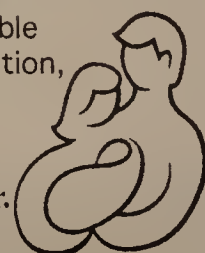
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A Novel Take on The Neighborhood: Two Local Writers' Books in Print

By Erin O'Briant

Two of the many writers who make their home in Noe Valley have their words in print this month. One is a sex-columnist-turned-fiction-writer whose most recent mystery was published in the traditional manner. The other is a mother and longtime neighborhood resident who has serialized her second novel, leaving free copies of a different chapter each week at a local bookstore. Both stories are set in Noe Valley.

Alvarado Street resident Michael Castleman's book *Death Caps* was published on April 20. It's the second in his series of mystery novels featuring newspaperman Ed Rosenberg, and the plot centers on a murder committed with poisonous mushrooms called death caps.

The novel is a true product of Noe Valley. Castleman wrote most of the book in the little studio he and his wife built behind their house 12 years ago. "However, during the writing of *Death Caps*, there was a flood in my office," Castleman remembers. "It took a week for huge industrial blowers to dry out the carpet. They made a God-awful racket and I couldn't work there, so I took my laptop to Tully's [Coffee] on 24th Street and wrote there."

In addition to a murder mystery with historical and local color, Castleman's latest book features more personal interests. "In *Death Caps*, I wanted to explore marital issues, have strong women characters, and try my hand at a few sex scenes," he says.

The novel's protagonists are a couple who live in a Victorian cottage they can barely afford on Fair Oaks Street. When they bought the place, they wanted to live in the heart of Noe Valley, but couldn't afford a house there.

Perhaps it's no surprise that Castleman's next book, which he's currently re-writing, is titled *A Killing in Real Estate*.

Inspired by Stanford University's annual re-publishing of old novels in a weekly serial format, 19-year Noe Valley resident Karen Allen decided to publish her second novel, *Matisse Trances*, the same way. Chapters one through six are available free at Cover to Cover Book-sellers on Castro Street near 24th Street. Allen adds a new chapter each week. She

Excerpt from *Matisse Trances* by Karen Allen

Nick headed off to greet yet another business school chum or racquetball partner or client who'd bought Quandary products and was no doubt on their Christmas card list. Tired of the tense, animated crowd, Fran lingered where she was, but not resentfully so. Quandary needed venture capital, and this evidently was the game that had to be played. Nick had poured the last two years of his life into Quandary, and for his sake Fran wanted it to succeed. Surely, once the company got securely off the ground, the intensity would dissipate, the demands subside.

Fran noticed some prints on the wall. Intrigued, she stepped forward and saw it was a set of five exquisite Goyas, but before she could examine the prints more closely, a voice from the other side of the room made her turn. The voice belonged to Alison, one of her oldest friends who was now also her sister-in-law. Alison hadn't spotted Fran; she was surrounded by five or six attentive men and looked stunning as usual, her long hair straight and sleek, the short hemline of her power red dress showing off striking legs. Before the birth of her child, Alison had been an investment banker in New York, and her sophistication still coated her like shellac—it could be scratched but not penetrated. You'd never know she's wearing a nursing bra under that dress, Fran thought. Alison seemed to take even motherhood in perfect stride.

Fran considered telling Alison that Nick was looking for her, but no, Nick would find her soon enough. She turned her attention back to the prints. On a nearby couch, a man and a woman were discussing website intergenerational something or other, a conversation Fran easily tuned out. The man's hand gracefully moved to the woman's knee, harder to ignore, but Fran wasn't deterred; she had rarely seen such a remarkable collection of Goyas. How extraordinary, she thought, that mere scratches on metal could turn into riveting scenes of pain and pathos, war and destruction. A soldier points a bayonet at a terrified peasant. Dead bodies lie in piles beneath a cannon. Ragged children huddle against a wall. Scenes, images.

Image: It is April, a year ago. Alison has just moved to San Francisco; she's been in her new apartment barely a month. Amazingly, Nick's brother—shelf-worn, bearded, acerbic Jeremy—academic, skeptic, nobody's fool Jeremy—now holds Alison's hand and announces they're engaged. They will marry early in May. Fran blinks, astonished. She hadn't even known they were dating. Later Tonia comments that marrying Jeremy is a classic Alison maneuver—Alison is known for her single-minded achievements. But Nick's brother—why him? Fran watches as Jeremy's hand opens and closes around Alison's, possessing, releasing, possessing. It seems incestuous somehow, Fran thinks; they're both so closely tied to us.

Image: The dinner table, two months later. It is June, post-wedding, and Alison brightly announces she is three weeks pregnant. With a grin, Nick claps his brother on the shoulder and congratulates him. Fran tries to smile encouragingly at the parents-to-be, but she's thinking, they're barely married, they know nothing about children, they aren't ready. But who ever is? She and Nick had planned for Anna, they took the courses, read the child development books, and still they'd been overwhelmed. If you really knew what it was going to be like, Fran thinks—the sleep deprivation, the nonstop responsibility, the incomprehensible demands that seek you out and intrude on every corner of your life—would you ever do it? And then you'd never know about the wonder and the joy that are as absolute as anything life has to offer. Jeremy is staring at Alison, stunned. Had she waited to tell him in front of us? Fran wonders.

says her goal is to attract 100 readers interested in finishing the book—she estimates she has about 25 regular readers now.

Although Allen knows it's asking a lot of readers to pick up part of the book each week, she thinks Cover to Cover is such a pleasant store that people won't mind returning again and again. But the story line—most of which is set in Noe Valley—is the real hook. Allen explains, "The novel chronicles a woman who is a painter and a rape victim counselor whose husband is consumed by his high-tech startup. When the venture capitalist financing her husband's company asks her to teach him to paint, her life changes in unexpected ways." The book features lots more characters, a murder mystery, and, of course, a fine Matisse painting.

Like Castleman, Allen is busy crafting her next work of fiction. Titled *Universal Time*, the novel will be a departure for her. "It's actually a little bit sci-fi."

Allen has no readings scheduled this month for *Matisse Trances*, but Castleman will celebrate his new publication with a reading Sunday, May 20, at 2 p.m., at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, on 24th Street near Diamond. ■

Excerpt from *Death Caps* by Michael Castleman

Fair Oaks is a quiet street nestled into the hillside that slopes down from affluent Noe Valley to the grittier Mission District. Ed and Julie's Italianate Victorian, built in 1889, had three modest bedrooms, one small bath, a new skylight over the breakfast nook, a little deck leading to a cozy yard, and a basement room that housed Julie's sewing equipment, fabric, and yoga mat, and Ed's library, home office, and rowing machine. Even with two good incomes, the house was a stretch. Renovations stretched things further. But that was life in San Francisco.

After the party, Julie drove the sitter home. Ed peeked in on Sonya, who should have been fast asleep, but wasn't.

"We didn't do reading," she pouted.

"Just a little, Daddy. One page? Please?"

It was way past Sonya's bedtime, but they were encouraging her to read. Ed sat on the edge of her bed while his no-longer-little girl worked her way through *Charlotte's Web*. She was turning into quite the reader, though Ed still had to help with the occasional word. Two pages and some tough negotiations later, Ed tucked Sonya in, kissed her, and whispered in her ear, as he did every night, that she was his favorite girl in the whole wide world.

As Ed departed, Sonya demanded the song.

"It's too late, honey. Go to sleep."

"But I need the song. I really need it."

Across the hall, Julie was undressing and heard the plaintive whine. She appeared in a robe and touched Ed's shoulder as if to say: I'll take things from here. Every night, Julie sang Sonya to sleep with one of a half-dozen songs. Sonya requested "Lean on Me." Julie sang it a honeyed alto.

Then Ed and Julie descended to their basement sanctuary. Julie sat at her sewing machine and mended a zipper. Ed opened a book on the heyday of the cable cars in the 1890s, when twenty-one lines ran from downtown all the way to the Presidio and south to the Mission. Most of the track was damaged beyond repair in 1906 and never rebuilt, but five lines remained in service until the late 1940s, when Mayor Roger Lapham decided to embrace progress and save money by getting rid of them. Then Ed's eyelids got heavy.

He was brushing his teeth when the phone rang. It was too late for good news.

"Ed? Todd," the voice said, minus Todd Gardner's usual joviality. "Dar's in the hospital."

"What? What's wrong?"

"They don't know. But something's weird. I'm in the emergency room. An ambulance just pulled up. The guy on the gurney looked a lot like Ted Calderone."

"What happened?" Ed covered the mouthpiece and yelled to Julie to pick up.

Todd ignored the question.

"I've got the boys with me. But it looks like I'll be here all night. I hate to ask, but can one of you come get them?"

"Of course," Julie said. "Where are you?"

"CPMC." California Pacific Medical Center, the huge hospital in Pacific Heights on the city's wealthy north side. It was a twenty-minute drive from Ed and Julie's.

"I'll be there in ten," Julie said. She was already dressing.

"What happened?" Ed repeated.

"We got home from a party. Dar had a stomachache. Then it got worse. Then I heard moaning from the bathroom. I found her doubled up on the floor looking like she was dying." His voice cracked.

"Where is she now?"

"Intensive care."

"What do the doctors say?"

"Nothing. Not a goddamn thing." The crack in his voice widened. "I'm freaking. You should've seen her."

"I'm on my way," Julie said.

Ed told Todd to hang in there. It sounded lame, but what else could he say?

Todd and Dar had two sons, T.J.—Todd Junior—twelve, and Donny, ten. Ed opened the door to the guest room. Lately, Julie had taken to calling it the nursery. There were clean sheets and a thick blanket on the bed. Ed pulled the futon from the closet, unfolded it, and made it up.

Then what Todd said registered: Calderone might be there, too. One person hospitalized after a party could be anything. But two might be something else....



Photo by Olivia Baler



Photo by Sally Smith

Noe Valley Authors in Limelight

The neighborhood's three bookstores were overflowing with the literati and their fans on Noe Valley Authors Nights March 26, 27, and 28. Lynn Hazen (photo above left) enthralled a young audience at Cover to Cover with a story about her famous Buzz Bumble. At the S.F. Mystery Bookstore (above right), owner Diane Kudisch (center) and a packed house of mystery lovers heard readings by authors Cara Black, Michael Castleman, and Mark Coggins. Meanwhile, Phoenix Books hosted readings by three more local writers, including Tamin Ansary (right), author of the post-Sept. 11 memoir *West of Kabul, East of New York*.



Photo by Doug Konecky

MORE BOOKS TO READ

The May list of good reads at the San Francisco Public Library is provided by Children's Librarian Pam Ow and *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske. To reserve a book, call or stop by a local branch or visit the library online at www.sfpl.org. Be aware that the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street is closed for renovation until early 2008. For information, call 557-4400.

Adult Fiction

■ A neurotic woman falls in love with a narcissistic man in *Him Her Him Again The End of Him*, by Patricia Marx, a *New Yorker* contributor and former writer for *Saturday Night Live*.

■ Poppy Z. Brite's latest foodie mystery. *Duck: A Tale of Men, Birds, and One's Purpose in Life*, is set in a New Orleans that never experienced Hurricane Katrina.

■ An aristocratic young Englishman emigrates to Manhattan's Bowery district in 1848 in search of "enlightenment, vulgarity, and democracy in action," in *Heyday* by Kurt Andersen, cofounder of *Spy* magazine.

Adult Nonfiction

■ Fay Weldon, author of *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil*, discusses seven sources of happiness and four threats to it, in *What Makes Women Happy*.

■ *The N Word: Who Can Say It, Who Shouldn't, and Why*, by Washington Post columnist Jabari Asim, offers a historical account of depictions of African Americans in popular culture over the past 400 years.

■ David Mamet critiques "corrupt and cut-throat" Hollywood, in *Bambi vs. Godzilla: On the Nature, Purpose, and Practice of the Movie Business*.

■ Senator John Kerry and Teresa Heinz Kerry collaborate to document the ecological challenges ahead, in *This Moment on Earth: Today's New Environmentalists and Their Vision for the Future*.

■ Sean Wilsey, son of San Francisco socialites Pat Montandon and Al Wilsey, spares no one in his memoir *Oh, the Glory of It All*, least of all his stepmother, local philanthropist Dede Wilsey.

■ *Barbaro: A Nation's Love Story*, by Tom Philbin and Pamela K. Brodowsky, celebrates the horse that won the 2006 Kentucky Derby but ended his racing career with a fractured leg in the Preakness Stakes.

—Karol Barske, Noe Valley Voice staff

Children's Fiction

■ Charlotte Voake celebrates the individuality of each twin, Simon and Charlotte, and their happy sibling connection, in *Hello Twins*. Ages 3 to 5.

■ Linda Sue Park's bouncy, rhyming text and Ho Baek Lee's appealing illustrations tell of a Korean girl's eager anticipation of her mom's delicious *Bee-Bim Bop!* (mix-mix rice). A recipe is included. Ages 4 to 7.

■ A boy who wanted an active pet comes to appreciate his quiet one, in *Not Norman: A Goldfish Story* by Kelly Bennett, with digital artwork by Noah Z. Jones. Ages 5 to 8.

■ Welcome a new, endearing pig protagonist, Ernest, the intelligent peacemaker among Grampa Bender's family of pets, including Gabby, a loquacious mynah bird, and the young cat, Milly. Grampa, a veterinarian who runs a animal boardinghouse, sets off a family crisis when he brings home a mysterious fire survivor, in Joan Carris' beguiling short novel, *Welcome to the Bed & Biscuit*, illustrated by Noah Z. Jones. Also a fine read-aloud book. Ages 7 to 9.

■ Jin Wang, the only Chinese-American at his new school, just wants to fit in; he befriends Wei-Chen, newly arrived from Taiwan. Chin-Kee, who seems to embody classic Chinese stereotypes, visits Danny, his Caucasian cousin, with embarrassing results. *American Born Chinese*, a graphic novel by Gene Luen Yang, with color by Lark Pien, weaves these parallel stories together. Winner of the 2007 Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature. Ages 12 and older.

Children's Nonfiction

■ Lynne Truss focuses our attention on the grammatical importance of the comma in *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: Why Commas Really Do Make a Difference!*, humorously illustrated by Bonnie Timmons' watercolor cartoons. Ages 6 to 8.

—Pam Ow, Children's Librarian, Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library

LIBRARY EVENTS

Lapsits and Stories for Kids

■ You and your baby or toddler will enjoy song, rhymes, and finger play at the 10:15 a.m. *lapsits*, held on Tuesdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. *Preschool story time*, for children ages 3 to 5, follows at 11 a.m., also on May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

■ Kids of all ages might want to check out the San Francisco Library's *Bookmobile*, parked at 665 Elizabeth Street near Diamond Street on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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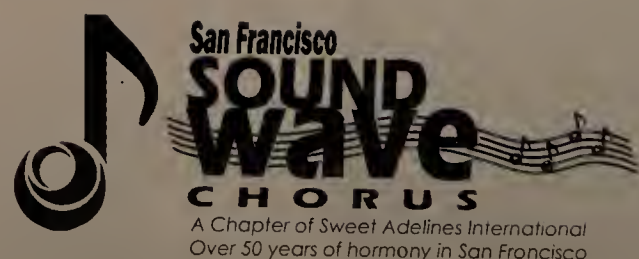
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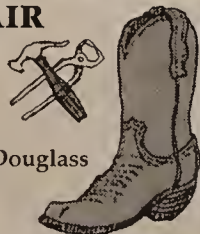
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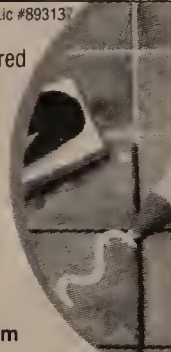
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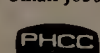
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The next *Voice* will be the June 2007 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before June 1. **The deadline for Class Ads is May 15, 2007.**

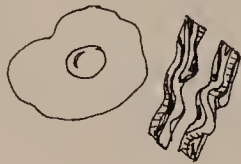
Note: The Class Ads are printed in the newspaper and then displayed for one month on our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you for your support.

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CLASADS

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Space Rental. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street, has space to rent for birthday or anniversary parties, lectures, workshops, teaching, concerts, and office space. Visit our web site: www.noevalleyministry.org or telephone 415-282-2317.

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Words Wanted: The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of stories, poems, and essays. Write lastname@noevalleyvoice.com or send manuscript, plus name, phone, and e-mail to *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Include SASE if you need materials returned.

HOW TO PLACE A CLASS AD

It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ per word**, and send us a check or money order for the total amount. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as one word.) Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month before** the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail.)

10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

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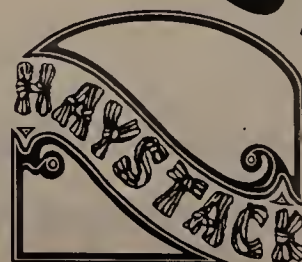
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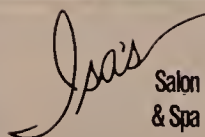
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

How Green Is My Valley

By Mazook

TREE CHEERS: The Green Committee of our Noe Valley Association-Community Benefit District (NVA-CBD) has completed its Downtown Noe Valley tree planting project. We can now welcome 130 trees on and around 24th Street—119 new ones and 11 re-plantings, that will vastly improve our commercial corridor.

You might have seen more than 60 volunteers (many from St. Philip's Church) out in the rain on Castro and Diamond streets Saturday, April 14, planting the last 66 trees, primarily magnolias, flowering cherry, and plum.

Thanks go to the tireless efforts of Green Committee chair David Eiland, co-committeeman and newest member of the NVA Board of Directors Rob Evans, and executive director Debra Niemann. For the past year and a half, the tree planting project has gotten hundreds of friends and neighbors working together on a forest of tasks: writing grants, getting 130 property owners' consent, coordinating donors, dealing with five separate agencies at City Hall, choosing tree species, and planting them in three separate plantings with the help of volunteers and Friends of the Urban Forest.

"It was great to see so many come out to help on that very rainy Saturday," says a relieved Evans, who worked hard on

mapping out tree sites, "and for St. Philip's to give us the space to have a pizza party afterwards to thank all the volunteers."

Regarding the 11 trees that needed re-planting, Evans says two had to be replaced because of aphid attacks, two because they were defective trees, and one because of excessive wind at Douglass and 24th (a more wind-resistant species was chosen). A sixth tree, at 24th and Sanchez, had mistakenly been removed when a building was renovated. But what Evans "personally found very disturbing was that [the remaining] five trees were the victims of hateful vandalism."



THE KEY TO THE MYSTERY: The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) reports that 24th Street's Ames Locksmith remains bolted and closed for business. Neighbors say the doors were locked at the end of February and a sign went up informing us that the owner had "gone fishin'" and the shop would reopen March 20. Then a legal notice from the landlord showed up on the door, telling Ames to pay the rent. However, that was soon removed. At April's end, the neon lights in the back of the store were still burning 24/7 and the sidewalk sandwich board sat dutifully out front, but there was not a person in sight.

Telephone calls to Ames were greeted by automated disconnect notifications. And a quick Google produced a web site and former patrons giving very mixed reviews. A call to the property owner brought a rather terse "I really can't comment except to tell you that the rent is currently being paid."

Ames has been at 3977 24th Street across from Bell for over 30 years (although its current owners have been there a little over three years), and it is hard to understand this sudden closing. Hopeful-

ly, everything will work out.

Meanwhile, if you need duplicate keys, don't fret—Tuggey's Hardware at Sanchez and 24th has provided that service for at least 50 years. In Upper Noe Valley, Key Kraft, located at 1585 Church Street at the corner of 28th, not only cuts keys, but provides full locksmith services for all you locked-outers (add 285-0134 to your emergency numbers).

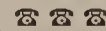


THE UPPER CRUST: As many of you sports fans know, Cybelle's pizza parlor next to Noe's Bar at 24th and Church, has departed the building. Behind the parlor's papered windows, there is construction going on for a new restaurant. Rumor is that Noe's owner Wayne Basso and family will be expanding and offering us new eats. Noebody will confirm or deny these rumors, so I guess we will all have to wait for delivery.

Speaking of Noe's Bar, congrats go out again to Karri Cormican and Hannah Bridgeman-Oxley, who were commended by the city last month for saving one of their female patrons, two years ago, from being drugged by her date. Cormican and Bridgeman-Oxley confiscated the tampered beers, informed the potential victim, and called the police, thereby getting the creep arrested. (See *Voice* Rumors, June 2005.)

For their heroism, Cormican and Bridgeman-Oxley each received the Board of Supervisors' "highest commendation" at the April 10, 2007, meeting of the supes. The award came "in recognition of your courageous actions that prevented a potential date rape at Noe's Bar and resulted in the apprehension and conviction of the perpetrator. Thanks to your bravery, citywide awareness has been raised and you have helped prevent further citizens from becoming victims of this heinous act."

The perpetrator, Joseph Szlamnik, who had no prior criminal history, was convicted and sentenced this past March to one year in jail, with six months suspended. Szlamnik pled guilty to "transporting and furnishing a narcotic," to avoid facing sexual assault charges based on slipping a sleeping drug, zalepron, and a central nervous system depressant, alprazolam, into his date's beer.



IN OR OUT? Those many neighborhood families who are currently taking classes, including dance, yoga, martial arts, music, and drama therapy, at the MoBu Dance Studio, may have heard rumors recently that the very popular studio will have to move because of landlord tenant misunderstandings. Well, the rumors have a chance of turning out to be false.

As you might know, Takami Craddock moved her dance studio here from the Sunset District last November. She took over the storefront vacated by Dirt Cheap Travel on the corner of 23rd and Sanchez, and remodeled the funky space and installed maple wood floors and walls of mirrors. The studio opened in November of last year.

Craddock confirmed that she and her landlord have been having "discussions" regarding neighbors' complaints about noise and the studio's hours of operation. She was told she would have to move. However, she says she is currently weighing her options. "I will be telling all my students of my decision about moving the studio, in the coming month, since current classes end on June 15."

We will update you on this story next month. Good luck, Takami.

Many Noe folks were concerned when a "For Rent" sign appeared on the front

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

door of Paula Benton's Artery, located at 1311 Church Street. This popular art studio opened three years ago and offers arts and crafts classes to young and old.

"No, we are not closing," says Benton. "We just have outgrown our space and are looking for a larger space somewhere in Noe Valley, preferably on Church Street."

A neighborhood activist who helped organize the Noe Valley Farmers' Market and the Harvest Festival, Benton helped found the merchant group called Church Street Professionals, which now sports 90 merchants on its e-mail list.

By the way, Church Street Professionals will be holding its next meeting on May 16 at 9:30 a.m., at Pescheria (on Church near 29th) and will feature PUC representatives who will inform those assembled about the overhead streetlight maintenance scheduled for this summer.

And Benton invites you to the group's first fundraiser, a used book sale from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 12. More than 20 Church Street businesses (from Elizabeth to 30th) will be selling the books, with proceeds going to the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library interior renovation fund.



QUIZZICALLY SPEAKING: Thanks to the many of you who personally informed me about the editorial gaffe in last month's answer to question #1: "What was Star Magic first called when it opened on the corner of 24th and Noe in 1979?"

To set the record straight, Gifts of the Magi was its original name at 24th and Noe, and the shop later moved up the block to 4028 24th Street, where Simply

Chic is now (not 4026, where Bliss Bar is now). In 1980, the storefront was occupied by a clothing boutique owned by Elisa Ining. When Ining closed the clothing shop and opened her health spa in the back part of the building, Star Magic moved into the front boutique space.

Not-so-old-timers also reminded me that Bliss Bar used to be called the Rover's Inn. Before that, it was a bar called the First Ining, owned by—guess who?—Elisa Ining, who took over a bar named Salonicas, active in the 1970s. So does anybody remember what the bar at 4026 24th Street was called before it was called Salonicas? You will find the answer below.

And speaking of Star Magic, a special hello to Robert Hanfling and Justin Moreau, who founded the retail superstar in 1978. They opened more shops in Manhattan, then in 1988 sold three of the stores, including our 24th Street shop, to Shlomo Ayal from New York City. You can read the story of Star Magic's closing in 1998 in the *Voice* March 1998 issue on our web site, www.noevalleyvoice.com.



ON THE FOOD FRONT: Kookez Restaurant on 24th Street has launched a three-course earlybird dinner special (from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.): soup or salad, entrée, and dessert, with a glass of wine, beer, or soda pop, all for twenty bucks.

On the music front: Over spring break, St. Paul's Youth Choir performed in the Magic Music Days program at Disneyland. They sang Broadway hits "Lullaby of Broadway" and "Razzle Dazzle" from the musical *Chicago*, and a showstopper Malt Shop Medley of '50s and '60s tunes on the Plaza Gardens stage. Song and dance were led by choir director Laura Flaviani, her husband Victor, and sixth-grade teacher Jennifer Woodall.

On the book front: Local author Bill

Yenne saw his latest coffeetable book, *American Aircraft Factory*, reviewed well in the current issue of *Air and Space*, a magazine of the Smithsonian Institution. The aircraft were vintage World War II, the last war that almost all Americans supported. The book has some great photos and tells how American factories went from manufacturing about 900 airplanes in 1939 to a staggering 300,000 by 1944. Four years after we entered that war, we did our part to help the Allies defeat Nazi Germany and then went on to defeat Japan. Four years after we started the war in Iraq, "victory" seems illusory, and the war is against an enemy that has not one plane.



FINALLY, ON THE FUNDRAISING FRONT: Ten-year-old Alice Kincade and her grandparents Barbara and Joe Minafo, who were pictured in the February issue of the *Voice*, are happy to report that the garage and bake sale Alice held on 26th Street in honor of her grandmother, who suffers from myasthenia gravis, raised \$832. Neighbors baked brownies, Cole Hardware donated six cases of water, and Walgreen's gave dolls and gift baskets. Cybelle's, Accent on Flowers, Bell Market, and Starbucks pitched in, and Mitchell's Ice Cream contributed some tubs of their very best. "A lot of my friends and family came [on Feb. 24]. My school was really supportive, too," reports Alice. "One time my grandmother even started crying. She was really happy."

A week or so later, the family presented the money to the Forbes Norris Foundation ALS/MDA Center on Sacramento Street, a clinic where Barbara receives treatment. "The doctors were delighted and surprised," said Barbara. They also were eager to thank Alice and her family.

Alice enjoyed the presentation almost as much as the garage sale. She said, "The

only funny thing was that it was Pajama Day [at St. James]. We went to the clinic right after school, and I had to wear my pajamas! It was kind of embarrassing. But it was fun."



THE OLDEN DAYS: The name of that bar at 4026 24th Street was the Jury Room, owned by Tim and Ruby Ward, and known for its raucous ambiance and the many motorcycles parked outside. When it changed ownership circa 1976, the neighborhood regulars moved across the street to the Cork 'n' Bottle. But that's another story.

That's 30 for this month. Ciao for now.



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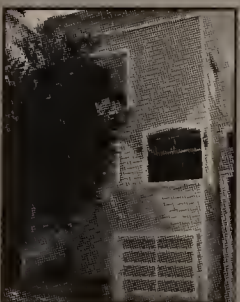


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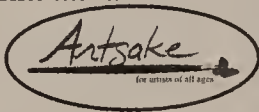


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Blame It on the Bumper. If you're sure Satan will take responsibility for your car's actions, you could consider making a definite statement such as the one proclaimed on this Noe Valley vehicle.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

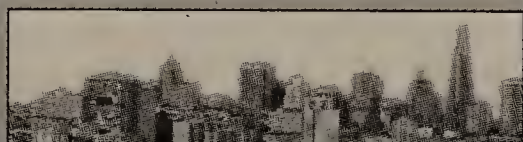


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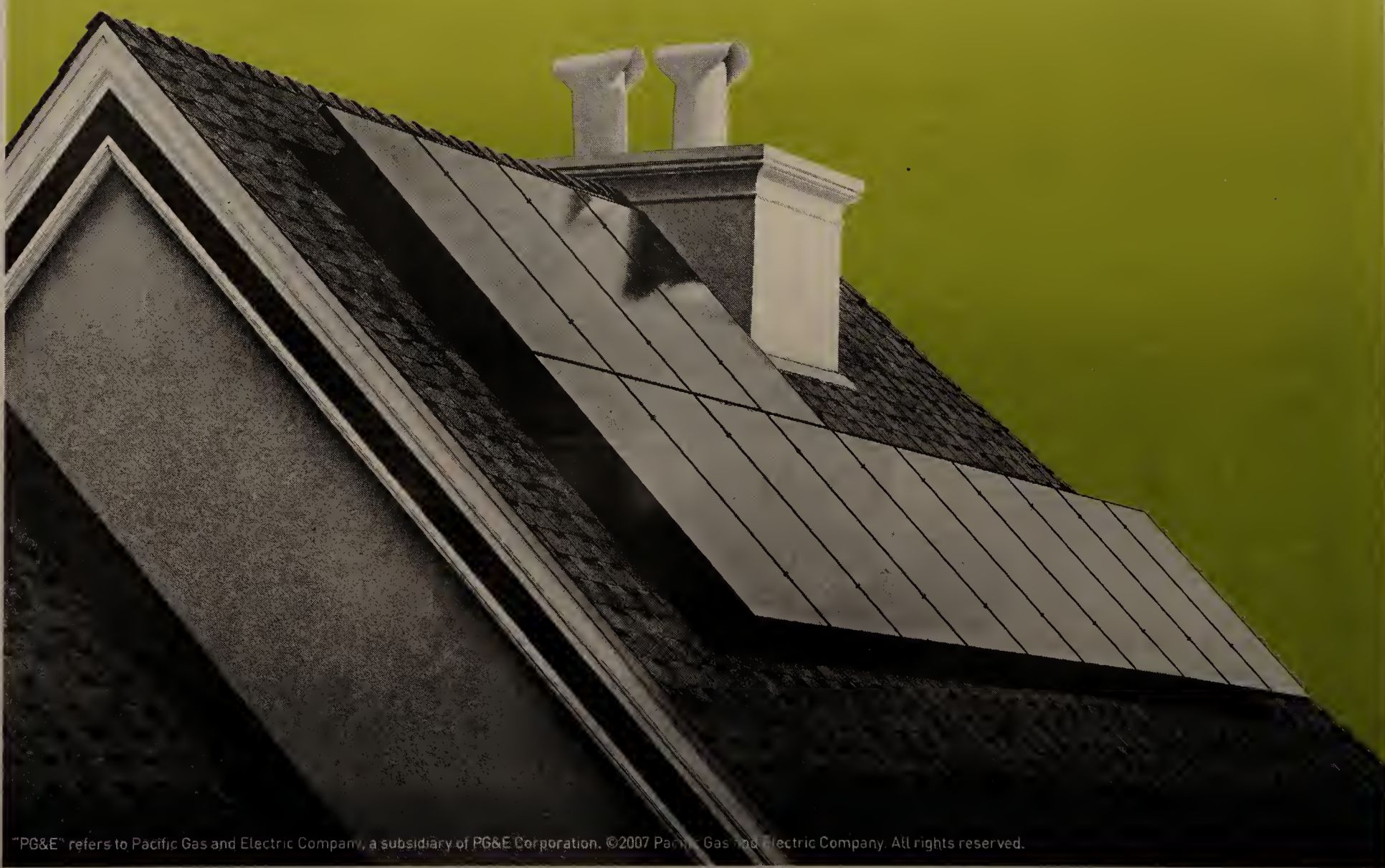
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Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230

E-mail: capa@home4us.org

Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Church Street Professionals

Contacts: Lynn Ingham, 643-5966, or Paula Benton, 248-0235

E-mail: bentonp@sprynet.com

Meetings: Third Monday, every other month. Location varies.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228

Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360;

Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045

Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753

Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Irregular, call to confirm.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Third Thursday of the month (except December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362

Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Meetings: Call for information. The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Eli Merritt, 415-285-3774

E-mail: emerr@earthlink.net

Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: E-mail for information on advocacy meetings and social events for kids

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862

Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman

E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com

Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146

Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May

E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.netWeb site: www.friendsofnoevalley.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146

Meetings: First or second Thursday of the month (call or e-mail to confirm), at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845

Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Contact: Christina Goebel, 826-7772

E-mail: christina_goebel@yahoo.com

Meetings: Call or e-mail for dates and times.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119

Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"Contact: noestrolls@aol.comWeekly Strolls: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., departing Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St., between Sanchez and Vicksburg. Stroll tours Noe Valley, the Castro, and the Mission. Membership free. To join, and for more details, visit www.noestrolls.com.**Noe Valley Association-Community Benefit District**Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com

Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838

Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month; Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between Sanchez and Vicksburg Street

Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332

Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695,

kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103

Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102

Meetings: Call for information.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contacts: Diane Barrett, 647-2116, or Teresa Gay, 336-6304

E-mail: info@noevalleymerchants.com; register at www.noevalleymerchants.com. Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month. E-mail for location and time.**Noe Valley Parent Network**

An e-mail resource network for parents

Contact: Mina Kenvin

E-mail: minaken@gmail.com**Noe Valley Preparedness Committee**

Contact: Mindy Kershner, 377-3890

E-mail: mindytower@aol.com

Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500

Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188

E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.comWeb site: www.sanjoseguerrero.com

Meetings: See web site.

See Jane Run Running/Walking Club

Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338

Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk route. Info? www.SeeJaneRunSports.com.)**Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)**

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission

Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary

E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.comWeb site: www.tail-wagging.com

Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473

Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call to confirm), 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th St., 7:30 p.m.

ON SALE

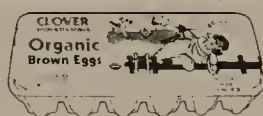
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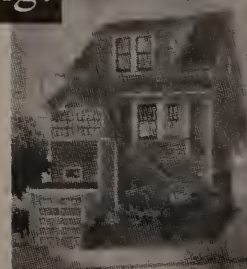


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A Neat White Square

◆ By Dick Meister ◆

Bernard Regan looks as if he's going to burst. He grinds his teeth, scrunches up his eyes, and twists his face as he teeters on a low curb, a most determined 8-year-old. Up and down he bounces, one-two, one-two, one-two.

Bernard bites his tongue, leans back, all stiff, and raises a pudgy hand.

He's gripping a baseball protectively wrapped in black electrician tape.

He takes a deep breath and, finally, he pushes the misshapen ball toward a concrete wall directly across the narrow brick street.

A white square is painted on the bluish gray wall, at precisely the height of a first baseman's outstretched mitt. Well, not a real first baseman, not one of those real big guys like the San Francisco Seals' Ferris Fain, but as high as Angelo Sapio's mitt, and he's over five feet tall! The wall fronts a basement that stretches across the space below the Regans' third-floor flat and our second-floor flat next door near the top of Rose Street, three blocks of steep alley that run straight down to where Market Street cuts across at an angle and heads deep into downtown San Francisco.

Thunk. Bernard's throw hits a good two feet beneath the neat white square, and I dash over to pick up the ball as it rolls down the hill, *pathump, pathump, pathump.*

"My turn, my turn!"

I back up to the curb, take squint-eyed aim, and—wow!—the ball goes wobbling right into the square. I leap forward to scoop up the ball as it bounces erratically off the dusty red surface of Rose Street, make a quick sighting, and, damn, toss it way off to the right of the square.

Bernard's turn again...then mine again...then his and mine. We keep it up even after the sun goes down, even after the white square has grown gray under the dim streetlight, and we do it night after night—Bernard, me, often three or four other kids.

You have to practice all the time, you know, if you're going to be a professional.

OTHERS DELIVERED newspapers, helped in the backrooms of grocery stores, and did the other things kids usually did to help struggling families in those economically troubled times of the early 1940s. But not the kids on Rose Street. We worked all right—but we worked at Seals Stadium.

Those dark green wooden seats were hard, the striped cushions rented cheaply to fans were soft, and it required whole gangs of young boys to gather them up after the games. Dozens of us would scramble up and down the concrete steps of the stadium and dash along the rows of seats, snapping up cushions, often out of each other's grasp, driven to a competitive frenzy by the reward awaiting us. Ten cents each we got—plus passes to future games—but only if we worked hard enough and fast enough to grab off enough cushions to satisfy a sharp-eyed supervisor in the crisp black-and-orange uniform of the Seals' concessionaires.

The supervisor's name was Red Haas, and he

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was more than a source of dimes and passes. He was a baseball manager! Red operated at Big Rec, a sprawling field at Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park, which swarmed year-round with players of all ages. Under the pecking order, the older guys, those who played on real semi-professional teams—some for professional teams, even—had full and sole command of the two baseball diamonds. We were relegated to the far corners of the outfield, where the master was Red—in his 20s, but not good enough to be welcome among the real players on the diamonds.

WE STAND EAGERLY on the grass of Big Rec—hoping, oh, how we're hoping—as Red Haas, broad and dumpy, swaggers slowly among us, his dirty corduroy pants going *swoosh, swoosh*. His arms are folded and he's chewing on



Swinger Dick Meister on Rose Street, 1947

his lower lip, a man on a very serious mission. Finally, Red snaps his wrist toward our ranks.

"You—yeah, you in the red cap...and you, the guy in the blue hat, get over here...and you...."

Red pairs off the chosen ones for a game. As usual, Red's going to catch for one of the teams, as the cleanup batter and, of course, manager.

Some of the kids who didn't get picked stick around, looking all pouty. But most of them go over to the diamonds where the people who hang out at Big Rec all the time are watching the older players. The only grownup watching us is Red's mother. She keeps yelling, like she always does. "Norman," she hollers—Norman, that's what she calls Red—"smack it good!"

RED MADE UP for the lack of spectators at his game by getting us some attention in the daily newspapers. All four of the papers regularly carried extensive coverage of sandlot and semi-pro baseball, based mainly on reports from team managers. Red called the papers after every game.

That almost always resulted in at least a box score, with Red invariably listed as having gotten three, four, and sometimes five hits.

Our names all there in a row, one after another, each of us with his own position in the field and place in the batting order, each with a specified number of times at bat, and hits, and runs scored, each with a record of his own—those box scores, the neat little columns of statistics, gave each of us a history and an identity, and gave a sense of order and precision to the games that was never evident on the field.

We'd lurch at pitches over our heads or down at our ankles, or far to the right or far to the left of the satchel that served as home plate. We'd dash toward a base—a shirt or coat laid on the grass—and find it had blown away. We'd stumble and sometimes fall as we chased after batted balls, lucky if we caught half of them, luckier still if we threw out a runner in less than two bounces to first base.

But when we saw the box scores in the papers, we knew we had been real players in a real baseball game like at Seals Stadium. We were somebody. ◆

Dick Meister is a writer who spent most of his youth playing baseball and most of his adult life as a journalist. He reported for the Associated Press, the San Jose Mercury News, and KQED-TV's Newsroom, and was labor editor for the San Francisco Chronicle for eight years. He is currently a freelance columnist whose work has appeared in more than 150 newspapers and magazines, from the New York Times Magazine and Christian Science Monitor to the San Francisco Bay Guardian and Anderson Valley Advertiser. In 1977, Meister coauthored a history of farm labor, A Long Time Coming (Macmillan). He has lived in Upper Noe with his wife Gerry for 38 years—in a home where the "raccoons, skunks, possums, neighbors' cats, scrub jays, and sparrows regularly visit the garden." Noe Valley is special, he says, because "it's a genuine, self-sufficient neighborhood with friendly, laid-back people, and wildlife and lots of greenery despite the urban setting." You can read more of Meister's articles—on travel, sports, movies, labor, and public affairs—at his web site, www.dickmeister.com.